L. Mendel Rivers

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
SOUTH CAROLINA

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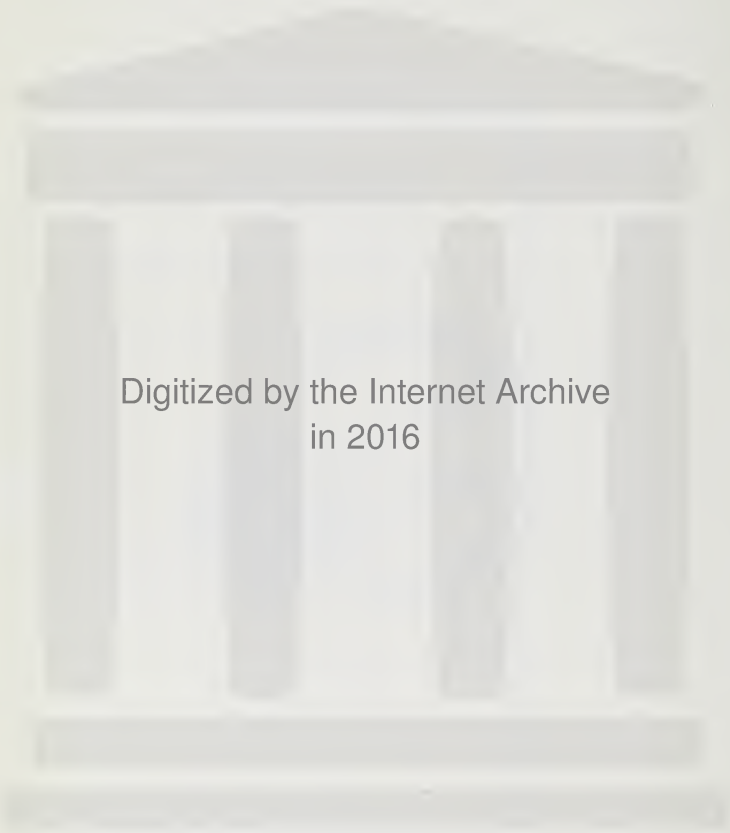

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Memorial Services

Held in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States, together with tributes presented in eulogy of

L. Mendel Rivers

Late a Representative From South Carolina

Ninety-first Congress
Second Session

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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Biography

Lucius Mendel Rivers was born in Gumville, Berkeley County, S.C., September 28, 1905; attended the public schools, the College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C., and the University of South Carolina at Columbia; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1932 and commenced practice in Charleston, S.C.; member of the State house of representatives, 1933–36; delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Philadelphia in 1936; elected as a Democrat to the 77th and to the 15 succeeding Congresses, serving from January 3, 1941, until his death in Birmingham, Ala., December 28, 1970; interment in St. Stephen Episcopal Church Cemetery, St. Stephen, S.C.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
FOR
L. MENDEL RIVERS

Proceedings in the House

TUESDAY, *December 29, 1970.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., offered the following praper:

So, my brothers, do stand firmly in the Lord.—Philippians 4 : 1.

Our Father God, who reveals Thyself in all that is good and true and beautiful, help us to make our hearts receptive to Thee, and our minds responsive to the leading of Thy Spirit, as we face the tasks of the last days of the old year. Now and always may we keep alive our faith in values that live forever and in virtues that never die. No matter what may be our lot in life—joy or sorrow, victory or defeat—may we be strengthened by Thy presence and sustained by Thy power as we labor for the good of our country and as we work for a better world in which men can live together with justice and in peace.

We mourn the passing of our beloved colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS, "who more than self his country loved." For his devotion to our country, particularly our Armed Forces, we thank Thee. For the love in his home, the warmth of his friendship, the greatness of his heart, we are grateful. The passing of this highly trusted and great-spirited public servant reminds us again that in the midst of life we are in death. Bless his family with the comfort of Thy presence and strengthen them for the days ahead.

In Thy holy name we pray. Amen.

Mr. McMILLAN. Mr. Speaker, we were all saddened to learn of the passing of our colleague, and my good friend, Congressman LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS last Sunday morning, December 27, 1970, at 2:20 a.m. The State of South Carolina, the Nation, and the entire world has lost a great leader.

It is not easy for me to speak about the passing of Congressman RIVERS, since we have been just about as close as any two Members

could be during the past 30 years. We represented adjoining districts which cover the entire coastal area of South Carolina where we were confronted with similar problems at all times.

Congressman RIVERS was always one of the first people I saw on arrival at the House Office Building between 7 and 8 a.m. Our parking spaces were adjoining in the House garage and I have never heard MENDEL complain concerning his strenuous 12-hour schedule each day or his health.

Mr. RIVERS' record will stand and be well remembered for its forceful brilliance and integrity. He was a true statesman, an American who gave of himself to uphold the ideals upon which this country of ours is founded. He had a strength of character that could not be swayed by vigorous attempts to alter his ideals. And he answered his challengers with oratory, the likes of which few men today can muster.

On December 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, MENDEL RIVERS handled what was to be his last piece of legislation on the floor, the resolution in support for efforts to rescue American prisoners of war in North Vietnam. He took a strong position, urging that the United States be resolute in protecting its military men and its heritage. In his closing remarks that day, he said, among other things:

> Mr. Speaker, I want the world to know that I would tell that crowd in Hanoi, you will either treat them with human dignity or some of you will not be here tomorrow . . . So far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, if I were the President of the United States, I would deliver an ultimatum to this crowd and let them guess where the next blow is coming from.

That was the kind of man he was. He believed in determining what was the right thing, and then standing up firmly for it.

My heartfelt sympathies go out to his lovely wife and children. He was a devoted family man and I know what a void his passing will leave in their lives. I trust that they will be sustained by their fine memories of him as one of our greatest statesmen and patriots.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, the death of our dear colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS, of South Carolina, takes from our midst a valued friend, an outstanding legislator, and one who loved our country with a devotion and intensity which was always evidenced as a Member of this House and particularly as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

MENDEL RIVERS was a man of strong convictions, particularly in the field of national defense, and of a firm foreign policy. MENDEL RIVERS knew that a strong national defense was a powerful instrument and so necessary in adopting and carrying out the foreign policy of our country, particularly a firm foreign policy.

While everyone did not agree with him on a powerful national defense—and a clear majority of the Members of the House, including myself, did—but those who did not, respected MENDEL RIVERS because they knew he was intellectually honest and believed in the policies of national defense and foreign policy he so ardently and strongly and courageously advocated.

In the history of our country there are few Members of the Congress who have contributed more to a strong national defense than MENDEL RIVERS. He realized in the troubled world of today, with the challenge that faces free governments everywhere, that if he were going to err in judgment, it was better if he erred on the side of strength than on the side of weakness in connection with our national defense. He also was aware of the meaning and significance of what is an indisputable fact today, which some persons overlook, that the Atlantic Ocean is no longer our first line of defense.

He knew, as all Americans should now know, that we must be prepared before the fact and not after the fact, and that World War II was the last time that our great country, our beloved country, would ever have an opportunity to prepare itself after the fact. In this opinion of our dear friend, I looked "eye to eye" with him.

MENDEL RIVERS represented strength and security, not gambling with weakness and appeasement.

While MENDEL RIVERS was a man of strong convictions, he possessed an understanding mind and a kind heart toward his fellow human beings. There are countless thousands of persons who are the beneficiaries of his good deeds.

A fighter in committee and in debate in the House for what he stood for, he did not harbor any ill feelings toward anyone. A strong character, yes; but a kind gentleman, yes.

So we pause today, my dear colleagues, with deep sorrow to eulogize and pay tribute to MENDEL RIVERS, a great man and a good man, who has left his strong and favorable impressions upon the pages of American history.

For my colleagues in the House and myself and Mrs. McCormack, I extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and her daughters and her son in their great loss and sorrow.

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, I join the distinguished dean of the delegation from South Carolina and all my colleagues from the State in which my wife was born in their expression of sorrow over the death of the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS.

I join the great Speaker of the House in the stirring tribute which he has made.

The passing of our late colleague struck down one of the strongest public figures of the Nation and one of the ablest legislators of our time. Seldom has the House seen in one person a combination of so much resolution, so much devotion to his ideals, and such varied talents as was possessed by our late colleague. He was the No. 1 public official of the Nation in the area of insisting on a strong national defense. He was known throughout the Armed Forces as one of the finest friends our fighting men have ever had. He was a finished student of the subject matter with which his committee dealt. Few Members have ever known their area of operations in the House as he knew his.

He was strong. He was confident. He was able. He was one of the masters of debate of this generation. I am convinced that every Member of the House, whether he agreed with him or was hostile to his point of view on any issue, would concede that on the floor or on the rostrum he was peerless in debate, eloquent, fluent, witty, intelligent, and always in command of every situation.

I have had several occasions to visit Charleston, S.C., with MENDEL RIVERS. No Member of this House was ever held in higher esteem by his constituents. They loved him. They have lost their greatest public servant. The Nation has lost an outstanding legislator, and the House has lost one of its most competent and colorful Members. I have lost a devoted friend.

Mrs. Albert and I extend to Mrs. Rivers and their children our deepest personal sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this House has lost one of its most eminent and distinguished Members in the passing of L. MENDEL RIVERS, late the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

His long career was marked by a ceaseless devotion to a strong defense force for the United States. His expertise on matters relating to the military was legendary, as was his prodigious capacity for hard work. He was ever the loyal son of his native State of South Carolina and devoted in his allegiance and loyalty to the United States.

A man of great personal charm and strong opinions, he will be sorely missed by all of his colleagues.

I join other Members in extending sincere condolences to the Rivers family on their immeasurable loss.

Mr. BOGGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues, including the distinguished Speaker, the distinguished majority leader, and the distinguished Republican leader, in expressing the sentiment which I know is felt throughout this body at the loss of one of the great Members of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I feel this loss particularly, because 30 years ago I came to this House of Representatives with MENDEL RIVERS.

I look about me now, and as far as I know, the only Members left in that group are my good friend and distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, the successor to the late MENDEL RIVERS as chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the able gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Hébert), and the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. Sikes).

Throughout the years during which I knew MENDEL RIVERS he not only distinguished himself as a great leader of this country but also as a friend of the Members of this body.

Mr. Speaker, MENDEL RIVERS was a man of his word. He was a man of great honor. He was a hard worker. My office happens to be just one or two doors from the office which he occupied. Frankly, I can state that I never arrived earlier at my office than did MENDEL RIVERS.

Mr. Speaker, seldom do we know what is happening to one of our dear ones. It was just a few weeks ago that MENDEL, despite his dedication to the armed services of this country, talked to me about a matter entirely separate from matters involving the armed services but about a matter with reference to the University of South Carolina. Just before he left I had a long talk with him about some of our problems and at no time had I ever heard him complain in any way. But on that day he said to me that he had been having a little trouble with his heart. However, I came to know that he had had a

great deal of difficulty with his heart extending back for many years, but little did I realize how serious it was.

I join with the distinguished Speaker and others in extending my deepest sympathy and condolences to his lovely wife and his three children.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Speaker, all South Carolinians, all patriotic Americans, and lovers of freedom throughout the world mourn with us today over the passing of one of the great leaders of our time, a South Carolinian who now takes his place in history along with Calhoun, Hampton, Andrew Jackson, and other great leaders of our State.

MENDEL RIVERS was no stranger to poverty or to hard work. His life was in the classic Horatio Alger tradition. His father, a member of a patriotic old family that had been in America since before the Revolution, raised cotton and ran a turpentine mill near the Hell Hole Swamp around Gumville, S.C. The elder Rivers died when MENDEL was quite young, forcing him to take on more of the farm chores. Later, while a high school student, he would arise at 4 a.m., milk cows, deliver newspapers, and then catch the trolley into Charleston. Throughout these early years of adversity he showed the energy and tenacity that were to characterize his public service, while experiencing the hardships that were to give him such a keen insight into the problems of poverty. Not many of my colleagues are aware of the fact, but MENDEL RIVERS' voting record in the House of Representatives was among the most progressive of all his colleagues from the Deep South. He supported much legislation to help the underprivileged, to help them up the ladder of life. And more important was his leadership in bringing well-paying, industrial jobs to all the people of his district and State. Here was a man who did something tangible about economic distress, and we all know of his pride in the positive economic effect of these great installations and industries on some of the previously most deprived and disadvantaged of our citizens.

Of course MENDEL RIVERS advocated military strength. He advocated military strength through necessarily vast expenditures for national defense because he was a lover of peace. He believed that the only way to have peace was to be strong enough to withstand and forestall aggression.

MENDEL RIVERS believed that weakness invites disaster and invites war, and that strength promotes peace—this MENDEL RIVERS believed. As a former GI myself, I can testify to the universal admiration the average GI held for MENDEL RIVERS. He was their champion. They believed in him.

Though, as we now know, he was then seriously ill, MENDEL RIVERS recently spoke out vigorously in the well of the House, citing the essential role the American textile industry plays in our national defense. And we well remember his recent speech at the keel-laying ceremonies for the nuclear frigate *South Carolina* where he pledged to fight for a U.S. Navy that is once again second to none. We remember too his gallant speech, but a few days before he entered the hospital, in behalf of our POW's.

I would like to tell you something else about MENDEL RIVERS, about the personal problems which he courageously overcame. For many years he vanquished the heart trouble that only some few of us knew about. We are aware of another personal problem over which he had been totally and courageously victorious. He was successful over this personal problem through the same tenacity and perseverance with which he led his great committee. His victorious battle over this problem is an inspiration to all of us.

In spite of his tremendously heavy workload, which often required him to be in his office before dawn, MENDEL RIVERS developed a closely knit family which he dearly loved. He was devoted to his mother, who was a great influence on his life and a great lady in the tradition of the old South. He was devoted to his two sisters. Always a source of strength to MENDEL RIVERS were his children and his lovely wife, Margaret, the former Margaret Simons Middleton, a daughter of one of our State's most distinguished and illustrious families.

On his last visit to my home, a little over 2 months ago, MENDEL RIVERS made a speech from my front porch and he spoke for 45 minutes. When lunch was served many of the rest of us stayed inside and had something brought in to us, but MENDEL RIVERS requested to go out and meet the people out in the pasture where a barbecue was being served. He wanted to mingle with them. He shook hands with at least 2,000 of the many thousands gathered there, and was so surrounded by wellwishers that he scarcely was able to eat.

He asked to walk up the main street of my hometown and go in some little stores, just meeting people on the street and in the stores.

This is one indication of the real character of MENDEL RIVERS, and the secret of his fantastic political success. He was a warm and colorful man loved and admired by people from all walks of life. He was loved and admired by the people of South Carolina as perhaps no other individual of our time.

I remember every time—and I did not always go—but every time, Mr. Speaker, that I went to our congressional prayer breakfasts, MENDEL RIVERS was there. He believed fervently and devotedly in an all-powerful, omnipotent Heavenly Father. And I agree with Dr. Billy Graham upon learning of the sad news yesterday when he said that we are—and I believe this—going to meet MENDEL RIVERS in Heaven.

Do you know what my two little boys said yesterday? They said: "Daddy, this is awful news." They loved MENDEL RIVERS, my children did. And you know, I remember asking them one time not so long ago whom they would like to see the next time as President of the United States, and I named several individuals. Without a moment's hesitation they said, "MENDEL RIVERS of Charleston, S.C." Not just my children, but a great many youngsters were attracted to him. They loved his colorful and unique manner, a public style which, of course, can never be duplicated. But perhaps more important, they believed in his genuineness, his straightforward manner, his utter lack of hypocrisy and duplicity. He always spoke and acted according to his beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Millie, who admired the chairman so much, and each of my children join me in extending to MENDEL RIVERS' family our deepest sympathy, to his lovely wife and daughters and to his son Lucius Mendel Rivers, Jr. In large measure their private loss is also our public loss. May we all derive strength and sustenance from his memory.

Mr. SIKES. Mr. Speaker, the death of MENDEL RIVERS will be mourned by a great many people. They include servicemen and their families who benefited greatly from his work. No man in our time contributed more to give them the same standard of living which they are called upon to defend. They include that great majority of American citizens who still understand the essentiality of a strong defense and who know he was one of the foremost champions of a strong defense for our country. He was firmly convinced, and properly so, that relaxing our defense efforts would represent a clear invi-

tation to the Communist world that America no longer presents a threat to their plans for world domination. Those who mourn him include also the people who appreciate a fearless fighter for the ideals of America. He understood those ideals, and believed in them. They include in particular the State of South Carolina and his constituents who had great faith in him and benefited so richly from his 30 years of devoted stewardship and sound representation in Congress. And they include his colleagues, who can best measure the ability of the men and women with whom they associate and who know that here was a man who stood tall among our Nation's leaders.

MENDEL RIVERS has built a monument of good works, and he leaves friends and loved ones who know he will not be replaced. I knew him well, better than most. He and I came to Congress together in 1941, a long time ago. During these past 30 years we have shared a close and warm association and I counted him one of my dearest friends. I watched him grow in greatness and applauded his work for America. We have lost a champion among Congressmen. America has lost a great son—a man respected, honored, and beloved.

To Margaret, his beloved wife, to his daughters Margaret—Mrs. Robert G. Eastman and Lois Marion, and to his son, Lucius Mendel, Jr., Mrs. Sikes and I extend our deep and earnest sympathies. We, too, have lost someone we loved and we understand, at least in part, the measure of their bereavement. This is a sad day for all of us and for America—a very sad day.

Mr. ARENDS. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me, almost impossible to express the great loss I feel with the passing of my good friend and colleague, MENDEL RIVERS. For many years I sat next to him on our Committee on Armed Services, he as chairman and I as ranking minority member. In all our committee proceedings he was fair and just, giving every member full opportunity to state his views.

Our committee has a reputation of being nonpartisan. There is nothing partisan about our defense posture. And, as chairman, MENDEL RIVERS made certain that partisan considerations did not enter into our deliberations. He was not arbitrary. He never made a major decision without consulting the minority.

He is said to have been controversial, but not insofar as I am concerned. He was controversial because he stood firm on what

he believed. He stood firm on making certain that our country had a national defense second to none. He stood firm on the premise that the American people must at all times be secure. He stood firm on the principle that our best assurance for peace is to be prepared.

MENDEL RIVERS is no longer with us, but he will live on in the mind and heart of all of us who knew him. To know him was to love and respect him.

With the passing of MENDEL RIVERS this Congress has suffered a great loss. Our country has suffered a great loss, South Carolina has suffered a great loss, for no one could be more dedicated to his country than he. And I, Mr. Speaker, have suffered a loss, much greater than I can possibly say. God bless his fine family at this time in their bereavement.

Mr. GERALD R. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I can vividly recall my first impression of MENDEL RIVERS on the floor of the House. He was an active, vigorous participant in the business of the House of Representatives on a most important legislative matter. He was a most impressive debater, an individual who had a personality that was different from that of any one of us. Because of his great ability and his personality I was tremendously impressed with this Member that I had never met. On a number of occasions I had the opportunity to be with him on issues, and on a very few occasions to differ with him. MENDEL RIVERS was the best whether he was with you or against you.

I can say without any hesitation or qualification that MENDEL RIVERS was one of the most dedicated Americans that I have ever known to serve in the House of Representatives. He never ducked an issue, and when he felt that the views in which he believed should be expressed, he spoke them strongly, clearly, and was willing to stand on his record in defense of those views which, in almost every case, were on behalf of a strong America in a difficult world.

It was a shock to me, in the first instance, several weeks ago when I learned that he had a medical problem that eventually led to his passing. But I think the fact that he never told many that he had this illness was typical of MENDEL RIVERS. He had such strength of

character and such dedication to doing his job that his own personal ill health was secondary to the job that he had to do.

We in the Congress have lost a dear friend. We in the Congress have lost a man who was a leader for what was good for America. It will be most difficult to replace him. His record has been indelibly written over the long years he served.

I join the others in extending to his wonderful family the very deepest condolences from Mrs. Ford and myself, and extend to them our best wishes in this hour of difficulty.

Mr. PHILBIN. Mr. Speaker, like the other Members of the House, I am deeply saddened by the passing of my dear and esteemed friend, Chairman MENDEL RIVERS. I served with MENDEL RIVERS for many years on the House Armed Services Committee and was in a position to know from close, almost daily contacts, his great talents, his irreconcilable commitment to country and the cause of human freedom. He was a great patriot and a great American.

He was supremely dedicated to his work as has been so well observed here by the distinguished majorty and minority leaders, and other distinguished colleagues who have spoken.

He was knowledgeable to an amazing extent that is difficult to describe, because his knowledge was so all-embracing and his grasp of the affairs of the armed services was profound and relevant to virtually every facet of our far-flung defense system. His expertise in military and related matters was truly prodigious and covered the entire field.

He was powerful of advocacy, strong of conviction, and vigorous and courageous in his approach to vital defense questions and their appropriate settlement.

He knew what his goals were at all times, and he had the ability, the experience, the determination, and the strength of character combined with high resolve and patriotism, to perform his duties as he saw fit in the best interest, as he honestly conceived it, of building the strength of this Nation and protecting and defending its security and its posture in the world.

It would be impossible for me in these brief remarks to measure either the quality or the extent of the tremendous contributions that MENDEL RIVERS has made to this Nation during the time he has been chairman of our House Armed Services Committee, and during the

entire period of his service in this great House which comprised many years.

It goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, that the record he made here is so memorable and outstanding in its import and impact upon the national safety and interest that it will long remain as an inspiration to all who follow him in the Armed Services Committee and in this House.

His sincerity of purpose, the spirit of dedication, the high motivation he reflected, to keep our country safe and secure against its enemies, foreign and domestic—these indeed will be high goals for anyone to follow, let alone to reach, because MENDEL RIVERS has left a legacy here to the Members of the House and to our committee that will always remain in this body, and will constitute an imperishable memory as well as an example for many generations of Americans, who will be, not only impressed, but also greatly inspired, by the splendid outstanding services and contributions our dear friend, MENDEL RIVERS, made to our country and to its safety, its security and its well-being.

To touch another point which Chairman RIVERS always stressed in his brilliant service, he was greatly concerned about the well-being, health care, and welfare of the officers, men and women who serve in the armed services, and he gave a great deal of his time, effort, and attention unselfishly to make sure they had better compensation, conditions of work, so far as possible under the circumstances under which they serve, as well as entitlements and rights to generous health, hospital, and medical care, which were the best that could be provided by this Congress in the light of their specialized service.

The members of the armed services generally recognize the great, unpayable debt to this great leader, just as this Nation and this Congress does, for his tremendous, truly invaluable contributions to our country in building up military power and strength we need in this country in these dangerous times, to preserve and protect our free institutions against every threat and jeopardy, and to keep our country the great shrine of freedom, liberty, and justice it has always been, and that it must continue to be, in order to grow in strength, in greatness, and in the luster, freedom, and ways of peace because there can be no peace in this country, in this world without the powerful intent and resolution on the part of free men, here in

this Nation and elsewhere, to defend their blessed heritage in every way that may be necessary.

It is difficult indeed for me at this time when my heart is so filled with deep sorrow and grief at the passing of my dearly beloved friend, comrade, and leader, to utter the words that I would like most of all to utter at this time regarding the enduring value of the great contributions of our beloved friend MENDEL RIVERS for many years of his busy life.

I extend to his sorely bereaved, loving, and devoted wife Margaret and wonderful family my prayers and deepest sympathy and my expressions of profound sorrow and to join with them in mourning their illustrious husband and father.

May the good Lord bring the dear ones he loved, and loved him, the strength and courage to bear their irreparable loss with true spiritual resignation and bless them with His Spirit of reconciliation and peace.

The Nation has lost a great patriot, his district a great public servant, and the House a great leader. May our dear friend MENDEL find eternal rest and peace in his heavenly home.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the distinguished dean of the South Carolina delegation taking this time—and certainly appreciate his yielding to me—so that I may speak as one of the members of the Committee on Armed Services about our late departed colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS.

Not too long ago, a young constituent of mine, stationed at the Patuxent Naval Station, stopped by the office to visit with his Congressman.

While he waited in the reception room prior to our meeting, he chatted with a member of my staff. An unforgettable part of the conversation went something like this: "Congressman Hall is a member of the Committee on Armed Services, isn't he?" asked the young man.

My staff member replied in the affirmative.

"MENDEL RIVERS is the chairman of that committee, isn't he?" said the young sailor.

"He is," replied the staff member.

"You know," said the young seaman, "if he was to ever run for President, I know a heck of a lot of servicemen who would vote for him."

That young man probably spoke more truth than fiction, for one of the outstanding attributes of L. Mendel Rivers, was his deep concern for the men in uniform. Their well-being was first and foremost in his mind.

He wanted them to be well paid and constantly sought to increase their remuneration. He insisted on comparability with commercial enterprise.

He wanted them to have the best of health care and gave his personal approval to my proposal, now law, for the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of Defense of Health Affairs.

He wanted them to have the finest equipment possible and became an aggressive proponent for improved weaponry, and the necessary research and development funds to keep it the finest.

He loved his Nation dearly and feared for her well-being; thus he became an eloquent spokesman for a strong defensive posture so as to keep us always prepared for whatever challenge needed to be met. Truly he, more than self, his country loved.

L. Mendel Rivers was many things to many people. To me he was more than a colleague in the Congress. We developed a camaraderie that existed outside the confines of the committee room, and had more the connotation of brothers than of friends. Perhaps this relationship plus me being a physician gave me a little better insight into the man, than the many who have written reams about him yet have never been successful in penetrating the surface to find the real character deep inside.

I was with Mendel for a considerable time the weekend before and for a few cloistered moments on the floor of the House prior to his entering the hospital. I knew what was at stake, as did he. I took comfort in the fact that he faced his most serious challenge as he had all the others. "Head on." He felt his responsibility to the Nation and thought the odds made the gamble a must. He had all the qualities of properly defined leadership.

To some, it may come as a surprise that L. Mendel Rivers was a deeply religious man and spoke often of the God who made us all. One could always find him at the House prayer breakfast each Thursday morning.

He was a proud man. Proud of his country, his State, his home, and of the accomplishments of the committee he chaired.

He was a controversial man, and knew it, yet he was always willing to "let the chips fall where they may."

He was a good Congressman, and represented his constituents as well as any man in the House of Representatives.

He was a prideful and devoted family man with joy in his lady and their children.

It will be a long time before such a man as he will again walk in the Chambers of the House. Maybe never.

It is tribute enough to say that L. MENDEL RIVERS will be missed, however, there is little doubt that his presence will be felt for many years to come.

In the final analysis, the real and lasting eulogies to Congressman RIVERS will not be written in words, but in deeds. In the ships of the fleet, the planes of the Air Force, and the men of the U.S. armed services who have always been the recipients of his untiring efforts.

Bettie and I join all in heartfelt sympathy, prayers, and love to Margaret and the family.

Mr. HÉBERT. Mr. Speaker, I find myself in a very delicate position today.

The Nation has lost a great American and I have lost a great friend.

As my colleague from New Orleans indicated, MENDEL came here 30 years ago with us and Bob Sikes, and we stood in this House and took the oath of office. The ranks have been thinned since then, and today, as we read the roster of the House, we find only nine names on that roster of 435 who were on the list at the time we took the oath. Nine remain.

So many things have been said of MENDEL RIVERS, so many things have been said that would have been better not to have been said. But in the saying of those things that should not have been said we must realize that they were said without knowledge, in ignorance, and unknowing.

Mr. Speaker, I had the great privilege of knowing MENDEL RIVERS. There was a mutual affection between us which I think has been shared by very, very few people. I shared a trust of confidence in him that was continually reflected in the assignments he gave me to carry out on the Committee on Armed Services.

From the day he became the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee there was scarcely a single matter of high priority,

of national import, or importance that he did not assign me to chair a special committee and report back to him.

Mr. Speaker, I walked in the shadow of his confidence and never betrayed it. I cherished it. If I could only impart to the Members of this body the man that I knew, I would be so happy.

Before he came to Congress, MENDEL lived in New Orleans for 2 years. That was 2 years before I came here. The development of that friendship is one which so few of us have an opportunity to experience. His abilities, his humor, his fairness in debate all were so composite in him that it made him a most outstanding and unusual man. I think this was reflected in the relationship which existed between MENDEL RIVERS and the great Speaker of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McCormack). MENDEL was attracted to and loved by our beloved Speaker. Of course, as all of us know, MENDEL's philosophy and my philosophy were pretty much the same. They were kin to each other. His greatest thoughts were pretty much his own philosophy in that he termed himself a "McCormackcrat." He claimed there was a new party in the House and that was the "McCormackcrat Party" of which he was a member. I tried to join, but MENDEL told me it was impossible to do so. He would deliberately tell everyone about his close association with the Speaker of the House.

Mr. Speaker, MENDEL and I learned about the handling of legislation at the feet of the great Carl Vinson. He often referred to our attending the "Vinson College," from which college no one ever graduated. In Mr. Vinson's own words, MENDEL and I were "Peck's bad boys," because in our mutual like for each other and sometimes the likeness of our dispositions and expressions he used this reference. But we loved him, and I know he loved us. He trained us in the art of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we hear the hollow phrases that he gave his life to his country, that he was a dedicated man, that he believed in this and that he believed in that. Far too seldom do we get down to specifics. In this particular case of MENDEL RIVERS we are fortunate to be able to come down to specifics. As Dr. Hall has stated, he was one of the few men who knew MENDEL's condition. He never complained. Three weeks ago plus 1 day he stood in the well of this House and held the same mike that I now hold and fought for a resolution in which he believed with the fierce advocacy that he believed in the things he thought were right.

Those who disagreed with him, within their right, were attempting every parliamentary maneuver there was to change that resolution. The Speaker in his wisdom counseled with MENDEL and he held his ground. On that day when he was here exposing himself to this turmoil and to those turbulent arguments, he should have been in the hospital in Birmingham being operated on, and yet he was 6 months late getting there. If MENDEL RIVERS had listened to the advice of his doctors he would have been in the hospital 6 months ago, and his chances of recovery would have been 80 percent. But yet he saw in his work here the call to a duty that he could not reject. Yes, he did stay on the firing line, and yes, he did fight for that which he believed in.

I must tell you and share this with you: that I think I am the only Member who saw him in the hospital 2 weeks ago Wednesday, and I must also tell you that the MENDEL RIVERS I talked to in that hospital bed was the same MENDEL RIVERS that you knew on the floor of this House, passionately dedicated to that in which he believed, and barking instructions to me on what to do from that hospital bed.

I returned with those instructions, and carried the message to his most devoted friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Philbin) who now becomes the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and told him what MENDEL had told me. I delivered the same message to the Speaker. We were in disagreement with MENDEL's position, but not one of us refused to recognize the fact that MENDEL wanted it that way, and he went to his grave with it being that way.

So the accolades we pay today, and the moments we pause to pay tribute to him are but sands upon the beach that can well be washed away in time, but there are things that can never be washed away. There are things that never can be forgotten, those memorable days of MENDEL RIVERS standing in the well of this House and leading a fight in which he believed; of not silencing the voice to sponsor that to which he was dedicated. Those things will never die, those things will never go away.

It was my privilege on Christmas morning to talk with his wife, Margaret, at Birmingham. Mrs. Hébert and myself had quite a long conversation with her, and we were feeling very optimistic, and I just could not make myself believe that this great heart had ever stopped beating, but it did, yes, MENDEL RIVERS is dead but the memories of MENDEL RIVERS will never die.

Mr. MAHON. Mr. Speaker, I feel ill-prepared to express adequately my deep emotions and sentiments in regard to our late colleague MENDEL RIVERS. He was always tolerant in his dealings with his fellow committee chairmen. His utter and complete devotion to the Nation's welfare was always evident in our relations through the years.

The memory of his warm and abiding friendship will linger with me as long as I live.

I should like to join in all the tributes that have been paid, and that will be paid, to this remarkable man from South Carolina. He made a tremendous imprint in the House of Representatives and in the Nation. He was among the foremost in seeking to preserve this country by providing adequate defense, military and otherwise. He never faltered in his efforts to promote the Nation's security.

Mr. Speaker, a great and courageous spirit has left us. But the things for which he fought—a strong defense, the ideals that have helped make this country great—must be carried on by those of us who remain behind.

My sympathy is extended to Mrs. Rivers and all the family.

Mr. FLYNT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad and heavy heart that I join today with the dean of the South Carolina delegation (Mr. McMillan) and with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and our other colleagues, in paying tribute to the life and memory of L. MENDEL RIVERS, late a Representative of the State of South Carolina.

The State of South Carolina has indeed lost one of its greatest sons. The United States of America has lost one of its most able and articulate patriots. During his service in the House of Representatives, no one of our colleagues ever believed more in a strong United States of America than did MENDEL RIVERS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, MENDEL RIVERS believed that a strong United States of America—strong militarily, strong industrially, and strong spiritually was the greatest and most effective bulwark of peace in a free world.

MENDEL RIVERS was subjected to as many and perhaps more groundless and unfair attacks from many sources than any Member of the House of Representatives or of the Congress of the United States. Yet, as these attacks came his way, they were blunted by the armor of his conscience and by the armor of the knowledge that he was right in seeking to make America a stronger America than it was yesterday.

He seemed to take new courage from the very fact that his enemies attacked him in the way they did.

Mr. Speaker, I knew MENDEL RIVERS first—certainly, before I was elected to the Congress, and even before he was elected to the Congress. In the late 1930's MENDEL RIVERS was a special attorney in the Department of Defense and later he was a special assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. During a part of that same time, I served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the northern district of Georgia. All of us in the district attorney's office and in Atlanta knew and liked MENDEL RIVERS. We were told, and we believed, that MENDEL RIVERS was known in nearly every other U.S. attorney's office just as he was in ours because on many occasions when he was a lawyer for the Department of Justice, he would be sent out as a special representative of the Attorney General to counsel with various U.S. attorneys' offices.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite possible that more U.S. attorneys in the late 1930's and in 1940 knew MENDELL RIVERS than knew the man who was Attorney General during that same period of time.

In 1940 MENDEL was elected to the Congress of the United States, where he served from January 3, 1941, until his untimely death during the early morning hours of yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, in meeting with a group of servicemen of the armed services of the United States, MENDEL RIVERS, addressing them, said:

> I don't owe you anything—anything except having saved me and having saved our country in four different wars during our lifetime.

And he reminded them that they had enemies not only in Hanoi but in the United States, including Washington, as well.

MENDEL RIVERS was the servicemen's champion. He was champion of the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, the marines, the men who daily defend America and things that the United States of America stands for. The military posture of the United States today is stronger because of the influence and effectiveness of MENDEL RIVERS.

All of us know the effective manner in which he presented bills out of the great Committee on Armed Services to this body, not only during his tenure as chairman of that committee, but in the years preceding his accession to the chairmanship as well.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Flynt and our children join me in extending our condolences, and our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Rivers, their two

daughters, and his son and namesake. May God bless them and watch over them in this their hour of sorrow.

Mr. HAYS. Mr. Speaker, given MENDEL RIVERS' nature and my own, it was almost inevitable that we would tangle in debate not long after I came here. Out of that encounter grew a friendship that got deeper and firmer over the years, and lasted for more than 20 years.

I read in the newspapers that MENDEL RIVERS was considered autocratic. He served on the U.S. delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly, NATO, of which I have been chairman since its inception, for about 10 years. When he came on the delegation I do not mind saying that having a man with his seniority and his position as chairman of the Armed Services Committee later, I thought I might be a little uneasy. On the contrary, he was never autocratic. He always consulted with me and with the members of the committee before he projected any move in that assembly. He fought hard in this last session when he probably, as I look back upon it, should not have been there, to get the other parliamentarians from the other 14 countries to accept a theory, a thesis, a slogan, if you will, a projection of "5 percent for freedom"—5 percent of the gross national product of those nations for defense.

He tried to get those who were able and wealthy these many years after World War II to contribute to our common defense so that we, who are contributing the most, could reduce our contribution in line with each nation's ability to pay.

And he got it through. It was accepted and it became a resolution which passed unanimously. He made a great contribution.

He was vice chairman of the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Assembly. He was respected because he knew what he was talking about, and he presented the position not only of America but of the free world in a style in which only he could present it.

I remember an incident some years ago which illustrates what I am trying to say. When we were getting ready to leave for one of the meetings overseas, probably Brussels or Paris—I do not remember where the headquarters were then—when I came on board the big jet, the military aide introduced me to the crew and said, "This is the chairman." And the colonel who was the pilot of the plane said, "The chairman is already on board." Well, obviously to any military man the chairman was MENDEL RIVERS, and I did not disabuse the

colonel. MENDEL RIVERS straightened him out. He said, "I am the chairman most of the time, but on this trip and on this mission, Mr. Hays is the chairman, and I am just one of the soldiers in the ranks." That was the spirit in which he participated.

So when some newspaperman talks about MENDEL RIVERS being autocratic, it does not square with the man I knew. I knew him as a patriot and as a man who had passionate beliefs and who would argue passionately for what he believed. I can understand a man like that, because I, too, have passionate beliefs, and I sometimes argue passionately for them.

Everything that can be said about MENDEL RIVERS probably has been said about him, about his State losing a great man and about the country losing a great man, but I suppose the people that have lost the most in the untimely passing of MENDEL RIVERS are the young men, as they were known in World War II, the GI Joes, because repeatedly when we were overseas, there would come a lull when there would not be any committee meetings or a day when nothing important was scheduled, and MENDEL would say to me, "Do you mind it I go off some place or other where I have heard that things are not going too well at the camp for the boys, and I want to take a look at it for myself."

Then he would go off to some camp in Europe I never heard of, to see whether conditions were the way they ought to be. So they are the ones, as well as the people who believe in keeping America a safe place to live—all of us have lost something in the passing of MENDEL RIVERS.

We did not have to agree with him to say that this is a great American who has gone from our midst.

My family and I express to his family, especially to his wife and also to his daughter Marion, whom we knew intimately and personally, our deepest sympathy and our prayers that they will find strength to bear this great loss.

Mr. BRAY. Mr. Speaker—

One told me, Heraclitus, of thy fate;
He brought me tears, he brought me memories;
Alas, my Carian friend, how oft, how late,
We twain have talked the sun adown the skies,
And somewhere thou art dust-without a date!
But of thy deeds death maketh not his prize,
In death's despite, that stealeth all, they wait,
The new year's nightingale that never dies!

With MENDEL RIVERS' passing, one of the strongest, unfaltering arms ever to uphold the shield of the American Republic is gone. and will be lifted no more. Although he never wore the uniform of his country, he was second to none in his love for it, and he was second to none when it came to insuring its safety against all foes.

It was not necessary for MENDEL RIVERS to have worn a uniform for him to have become one of the stoutest defenders and strongest supporters of the men and women who do. MENDEL knew that upon the shoulders of the men who wear this uniform rests the heavy burden of the continuance of our Republic, and the safety of its people.

There will be mourning on every spot on the globe where there are American servicemen. The American in uniform never had a truer friend than MENDEL RIVERS. Today there is a void in the hearts, hopes, and aspirations of our fighting men. We must see that that void does not go unfilled.

As the Republic is poorer for his passing, it is also stronger because he lived. Let not those who would come against us take heart because he is gone, for what he did, and the example he set, will give renewed courage and determination to those who follow him in his footsteps. He had faith in his country, belief in its destiny and greatness, compassion for his fellow man, devotion to the House of Representatives, and a determination to so order his life and his deeds to leave his country stronger and safer than he found it. His epitaph could be taken from Shakespeare's Henry VIII; inasmuch as any man could have a personal code, this was MENDEL RIVERS:

Be just and fear not. Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's, thy god's and truth's.

And also, Mr. Speaker, as my personal tribute to this man I quote:

The record of a generous life runs like a vine around the memory of our dead, and every sweet, unselfish act is now a perfumed flower.

Speech cannot contain our love. There was, there is, no gentler, stronger, manlier man.

Mr. LANDGREBE. Mr. Speaker, one of the most distasteful pieces of American news coverage, in my opinion, was the report on the WRC–NBC 11 o'clock news last evening, December 28, in regard to the death of Representative MENDEL RIVERS. I was shocked to see that WRC–NBC chose this occasion to lambast the seniority system

in the U.S. Congress, setting it out as perhaps the most repulsive and unsavory system known to man. A lifelike painting of our departed colleague was shown on a screen during a good part of the discussion, very effectively connecting Mr. RIVERS' name with this "undesirable" system.

No doubt, the seniority system in Government is not perfect and the results may in some instances leave something to be desired. But I ask you was the 11 p.m. news the proper time and place to discuss its shortcomings?

Suggesting the abandonment of seniority is comparable to suggesting the abandonment of the gold standard—great idea but what shall be its substitute?

Our Government is big and complex—the wisdom, experience, and dedication of statesmen like MENDEL RIVERS must always be given high priority if we are to remain a great nation. In addition to those three, Mr. RIVERS had one more attribute that far overshadowed the other three. That was his love; his unquenchable love for his country, his God and his fellow men.

Yes; he loved America. He worshipped God and loved all men of every creed, color, race, and religion. While he admitted that he could not always understand their actions he placed the greatest charity even upon his enemies. Only a few weeks before his death I heard him comment that he just could not understand why so many reporters seemed to delight in condemning him, even though he was giving his all to his country.

Now MENDEL RIVERS is dead. What emphasis the historians will place upon his life remains to be seen. For myself, regardless of comments from WRC–NBC or others, MENDEL RIVERS will be remembered as a friend, a gentleman, a great patriotic American, and a humble servant of God.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Speaker, in the life of a great leader, such as now has passed from us, there are many spectacular things which come to our minds today as to his achievements. These are great monuments to him, the things he has done to make our country strong and therefore to protect the world against wars that might have occurred. All of these are great and impressive things.

Many times people do not realize, however, the basis upon which these things are founded. One of the things, of course, is the excel-

lent character of the man we talk about today, our departed and beloved Member, MENDEL RIVERS.

Another is something I have not heard much discussed here on the floor. As a member of the committee he chaired, I certainly am impressed by it; that is, his dedication to doing his homework.

MENDEL RIVERS was a real student, a real scholar, a hard worker early in the morning and late at night. He knew what he was talking about. For about two decades, for 20 years, I sat with him there on that committee, and in this period of time I do not remember ever hearing a military man who came before that committee—for instance, in the field of airpower, types of airplanes or things of that kind—who knew anywhere near as much as the chairman of the committee knew about these highly technical matters.

Now, MENDEL did not get this information by just listening to other people who knew less than he. He got it by studying, by working, but burning the midnight oil. He knew what he was talking about. So he brought to his work as a Congressman not only the spectacular things such as being able to speak well on the floor of the House and to be courageous about issues which came before it, but also the ability to do the mundane, the hard workaday things a Member of Congress must do if he is going to be the chairman of an important committee such as the House Armed Services Committee.

There are many great things MENDEL leaves this country, and he leaves them in a living manner, because they will go on after he is dead, and his presence will be felt, as Dr. Hall said, for years and years to come in the strength of our country.

Most of us here on the floor have the privilege of belonging to a group of men who know each other quite intimately. We know each other in the debates on the floor, and in the cloakrooms, and we know each other in the efforts we share together, perhaps fishing or things of that type.

I knew MENDEL RIVERS in all these things, and also in the Thursday morning prayer group, and in the intimate little things in our lives. I do not believe I ever saw MENDEL, when he was in a relaxed mood, when he did not ask me about my children. I was a bachelor for a long time, and have a young family for my years, and he particularly encouraged me to take time off and to share interests with my children, and he said that I should do these things, because "They will go before you know it."

So as I conclude my remarks today I think not only of a great American passing from the scene, but I think also of a beloved friend.

And I must say this, MENDEL has left an impact upon my life. He has taught me a great deal during my association with him: to study and to do my homework, and also to give of my devotion to my family responsibilities. There was above it all his great devotion to God and country which made him the great man he was. Yes, above all of this there is woven the fabric of his being a great gentleman of God and of his fellow man.

Mr. LONG of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, one does not have to be a so-called hawk to mourn the death of MENDEL RIVERS. MENDEL RIVERS served his country and his constituents for 30 years with devotion and energy. He was a foremost advocate of the maintenance of the U.S. military superiority as being the surest way under the circumstances of maintaining world peace. How many doves—and I have many "dovish" moments myself—say for sure that they know otherwise.

MENDEL RIVERS made a lasting contribution to the military strength of our Nation and particularly toward keeping America first on the seas and maintaining the morale of our fighting men.

In my first years in Congress, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I knew MENDEL RIVERS as courteous, good humored, fair, and characterized by a total lack of vindictiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I share with the other Members of this body and his family the loss of a great leader and friend.

Mr. FULTON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we Members have all liked MENDEL RIVERS, on both sides of the House, regardless of party. MENDEL RIVERS was one of the best liked Members who have served in the House in many years. MENDEL RIVERS has shown high competence, leadership, and dedication as chairman of the important House Committee on Armed Services. Handling authorizations for military expenditures of approximately $80 billion annually to provide for 3 million members of the U.S. armed services around the world, U.S. military installations, ships, and planes is a most heavy responsibility which MENDEL RIVERS, as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, has assumed and performed with efficiency and the respect of the House.

Mr. Speaker, serving as the ranking member of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, I have known MENDEL RIVERS

very well because of our discussions of mutual problems with reference to research and development both in air and in space. MENDEL RIVERS' knowledge and broad experience in these fields have made working with him rewarding and effective.

On a scientific and medical research basis, I would like to make a few points with reference to the cause of the loss of this fine Member through heart complications following a mechanical valve emplacement. We on the Committee on Science and Astronautics have been working to obtain authorization for adequate funds with which to do basic heart research. I have been specially interested in this matter of rejection. There is a serious situation and problem in procedures to prevent body rejection of transplanted human organs, as well as rejection of artificial devices that are placed in the human body for the purpose of assisting the heart or any other organ of the body.

Dr. Barnard, the famous heart specialist from South Africa, has stated that through research the problem of human organ rejection on transplanting of human organs, and the problem of inert mechanical, or artificial appliance rejection in the human body in his studied opinion, can be overcome. Probably nobody can definitely say at this point of time, and state of research, as to the cause of death of MENDEL RIVERS, through heart trouble, whether it was heart fibrillation or heart failure due to rejection of the mechanical valve. The state of the medical art on transplants of human organs, implantation of mechanical devices, and causes of body rejection, is at present deplorable, with the medical patient submitting to unknown risks, with the odds stacked against the patient, and the doctor and surgeon operating and working on the unpredictable edge of the unknown, with a confidence based on slim hope and ignorance. The only justification for action is that there is a chance that the future will be better than the present. Why has no definite procedure been researched and determined to know, in advance, the tolerance of the patient, and the probability or degree of rejection, prior, and I emphasize prior, to the surgery?

As a member of the Science and Astronautics Committee, I look at the unfortunate passing of MENDEL RIVERS as an example where there is a crying need to go ahead with basic heart and organ transplant research, because in MENDEL's case, his heart, after the operation, had come back, responding three times, and grew stronger with accompanying melioration of body functions.

In my opinion, as the heart became stronger each time, then likewise the body rejection process came back stronger, and though the rejection process developed, and continued and grew more powerful, until the heart was overpowered, and body processes likewise deteriorated.

To have as fine a person as MENDEL RIVERS pass away because scientific research and surgical procedures have not yet reached the level of competence we need to reach, I believe, is a caution to the House. The U.S. Congress should emphasize basic research and applied research in these life sciences we have already learned so much about in space.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health, as well as educational and foundation laboratories must be organized into national teamwork for developing these necessary and attainable techniques that will save many lives in the future.

I firmly believe that acceptance or rejection, and acceptance or incompatibility of the human body with transplanted living organs, from human or animal sources, or with artificial, manufactured or mechanical organs, vessels, valves, or working functional parts, constitute one of the major problems facing us in this generation. I urge that Congress act to provide adequate authority to solve these heart and transplant problems so that we will have people like our good distinguished friend, MENDEL RIVERS, with us for many more years.

Mr. ICHORD. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of MENDEL RIVERS the Nation has lost a great and dedicated patriot, and his district an energetic and faithful servant. The American GI has lost his all-time favorite and generous champion; his enemies a determined and honorable opponent; his friends, a loyal and powerful ally; his family, a loving, kind, dedicated husband and father. And my wife and I have lost a very close and dear friend.

I extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Margaret, his son, Lucius, and his two daughters in this hour of their bereavement.

Mr. STRATTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to join in paying these few small tributes to a great leader, a great colleague of ours, with whom we had the privilege of serving, L. MENDEL RIVERS. I think we who have worked with him have perhaps realized these past few years that there probably has never been a man in the Congress

who was more severely attacked by outsiders, most of whom really did not understand him, or not quite the kind of man they were attacking.

This body of Congress is made up of many different kinds of people, and there were several things that stood out that made MENDEL RIVERS unique. For one thing, you never had any doubt where he stood. There was never any equivocation, never any trying to straddle or duck an issue; he made it clear where he stood.

As has already been said on many occasions, he was not only dedicated to a strong and adequate defense, but he made his views clear at a time when they were not particularly popular, but at a time when that point of view was never needed more to be eloquently expounded.

He was also a true friend of every man and woman in uniform. His most recent contribution was of course the arrangements that he was very largely responsible for, in making it possible for our servicemen to come back home from Vietnam at a greatly reduced fare over this Christmas holiday season.

We hear a lot these days too, about civilian control over the military, and about the responsibility of Congress for making a difference in the operations of the executive department. Well, here was a man who really did make a difference. Admiral Rickover, perhaps more than anyone else, knows that if it had not been for MENDEL RIVERS and for the support of the Committee on Armed Services, our nuclear power program would be a lot weaker than it is today, and our nuclear submarines would be a lot fewer than they are.

There have been many other criticisms that were wide of the mark. For example, when he became the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services he not only worked very, very hard, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BENNETT), has so well pointed out, but he made a special effort to make sure that all of the other members of the committee knew what was going on, so that information made available to the committee was not put in the hands of just a few members, but was made available to all the members. And although there were members who whom he differed, and whose views he did not agree with—and upon occasion I was included in that number—he still made it possible for committee members with whom he did not agree to assume responsibility in the committee, nevertheless, and he made a special point of recognizing the contributions that they had made.

Although his views were very strong and very strongly stated, he nevertheless recognized that other members of the committee could hold differing views from his, and that perhaps they might have arrived at a clearer interpretation of the facts. Probably the most notable recent example of that attribute is the report published by the subcommittee under the chairmanship of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HÉBERT), on the Mylai incident.

Mr. RIVERS' publicly expressed views on Mylai were not the same as those reflected in the subcommittee's detailed report. But he had designated an outstanding member of the committee to chair that investigation. The investigation had followed the facts where they led, and so Chairman RIVERS gave his imprimatur to that report, recognizing that the subcommittee had researched the subject more fully than he had done himself.

So, Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to MENDEL RIVERS, a man who really was a fighter, a gallant soldier for what he believed in, who died certainly with his boots on, and a man who in spite of all the physical difficulties he faced, nevertheless made a tremendous fight to cling to life and to try to continue in his job.

So, as the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HÉBERT) has already suggested, we in this House will do well to carry on what MENDEL RIVERS stood for because we are going to have to maintain a strong defense for our country in a world where the enemies of our country give no signs of relaxing their pressures against us. If we can pick up some inspiration for that important task from our association with our friend, MENDEL RIVERS, then his spirit will indeed live on here in this Chamber.

Mr. STEED. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in paying these tributes to the memory of L. MENDEL RIVERS who stood so tall among us for so long. While we dwell upon the achievements of this great man, there is one additional point that I would like to include here in our deliberations and that is that just a very few weeks ago he stood here in this Chamber and on this floor and delivered a full dress speech on what he considered to be the needs of this country and the dangers that confront us and what this Nation needs to do to protect its future security and be a free nation.

So I commend again this man's accumulated great knowledge that he gave us in that speech to all my colleagues for our benefit and guidance in our deliberations henceforth.

Mr. Speaker, I had not been here very long before I had occasion to become involved in a matter with MENDEL RIVERS in which we shared a personal interest. That was the beginning of a friendship that grew through the years.

I probably have received more help and more benefit from his warm friendship than almost any Member of this House. He visited my district three times last year. He has many, many friends among my constituents. I doubt if there is any place on earth, except his home district and State, where he is admired and respected more than in my congressional district.

Not long ago the citizens of Altus, Okla., to show their appreciation for him, named one of their public schools the L. Mendel Rivers School.

During the time he was in the hospital, the fifth and sixth graders of this school on their own initiative signed a get-well card and sent it to him.

I am happy to know that one of the things that cheered him during the days that he was fighting for his life in the hospital was to have received this message from those children who thought so much of him.

Mr. Speaker, my wife and my family and my constituents who knew him join with me in extending to Mrs. Rivers and the family our deepest condolences and sympathy.

Mr. PIKE. Mr. Speaker, all of us live our lives at many different levels and in many different rooms. I cannot claim to have had the complete confidence always of MENDEL RIVERS, nor to have been one of his closest friends—and this I regret, because I had the greatest respect for the man for many different reasons, and I think he was aware of this.

I respected him most because he was not born the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and he became the chairman of the Armed Services Committee not because anyone ever handed it to him on a silver platter, but because through his own efforts and determination and stamina he made himself the chairman of the Armed Services Committee. He stepped into tremendously large shoes to fill when he replaced Carl Vinson, but he did the job, and he did it through tremendously hard work, and for this I respected him.

The fact that he arrived at his office in the dark and had finished several hours of work by the time the cafeteria opened every morning

was known to his colleagues, but not necessarily known to the people at large, who got a very limited view of the man.

He had facets which were not known to the general public who read the general periodicals. He had a love of poetry, and he liked to recite poetry. He knew poetry more than almost any Member in this Chamber.

He had a magnificent sense of humor, and while he could use it devastatingly in debate, and frequently used it against me, he could also laugh at himself. This is a tremendous virtue in anyone in a place of as great responsibility as he was. He loved nature, flowers in particular. He was an avid gardener and did so many things which are so completely out of the context of the caricature which was sometimes made of the man.

His judgments were not always my judgments, and his priorities were not always mine. I frequently questioned his judgments and his priorities. But I have never ever questioned his motives, and I believe with all my heart that MENDEL RIVERS did, from the day he came here until the day he left here, did those things which he believed in his deepest conscience were best for America. His loyalties were absolutely the greatest loyalties—to his Nation and to his responsibilities. His efforts on behalf of the military, from the richest defense corporation to the poorest private, were the strongest and the most effective efforts which anyone made on their behalf.

I found that my own judgments caused me to question him many times, but I never beat him, ever. I have never seen him lose a battle until this week, when he lost the battle which all of us are going to lose, and I believe that he did it, as always, with gallantry and with as hard a fight as a man could make.

For the military of America I feel most sympathetic, for they have lost their greatest champion.

To his devoted wife, to his daughters, and to his son, I offer my sincerest condolences.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our colleague, MENDEL RIVERS. This is a great loss to our Nation—a loss that will continue to be felt in the future as well as in these early hours of grief and mourning.

The people of South Carolina have lost a strong and articulate spokesman who for 30 years served them with dedication in the tradition of Calhoun.

The Congress has lost one of its most able and effective leaders.

The Nation has lost a devoted and proud public servant, an unapologetic patriot deeply dedicated to his responsibilities as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. For several years it was my privilege to serve with him on this committee and later under his chairmanship. To know MENDEL RIVERS as I have known him, I regard as one of the great intangible rewards of my service in the Congress. He was kind. He was good. He was warm. He was honorable. He was sincere. He was a real friend. But above all, he always had a deep and abiding concern for our country's security and the individual welfare of all our service men and women wherever they were throughout the world. Although he had no personal military background, MENDEL RIVERS became the special representative and the advocate of all of those wearing the U.S. uniform.

Words or monuments could never express the love, the affection, and the devotion that our service people have so justly felt for this great American leader. This is the greatest tribute any man could have.

I extend to Mrs. Rivers and each of the members of the family my deep and sincere sympathy and want them to know that I, too, share their loss.

Mr. FISHER. Mr. Speaker, I, of course, share with my colleagues the sadness of this occasion. Anyone who has known MENDEL RIVERS as long as I have, and as long as many of you have, could talk at great length about his achievements. We could talk equally as long about MENDEL RIVERS—the man. Indeed, he had few equals in his time.

We often think of MENDEL in terms of military, because he was one of the Nation's leaders on that subject. Aside from that, let us not forget for 1 minute the fact that this great American was, above all, a patriot. He believed in his country, its institutions, its heritage, and its destiny. Every minute of his life was dedicated to the preservation of those concepts.

I have never known a more energetic person. Every minute of the day was put to useful purposes. So far as I know he eschewed many of the pastimes, the card games, the fishing, and other time-consuming activities, in order to devote those moments to his goals—always overshadowed by his love of country and the maintenance of its security.

MENDEL RIVERS was one of the Nation's top authorities on all

things military. He was probably one of the world's leading authorities on aircraft. He knew intimately the make, the history, the configuration, of practically every airplane ever built, whether in this country or abroad.

As a committee chairman he was superb. His knowledge knew no bounds, and his foresight was uncanny. I recall how he argued with much vigor in favor of bombing of Haiphong and the nearby petroleum supplies at a time when the SAM sites were nonexistent. At that time the damage to the targets would have been awesome, and our losses would have been minimal. But to no avail. Then, 2 or 3 years later the decision was made to do what MENDEL had so strongly advocated—to strike out at targets adjacent to Haiphong and to knock out the petroleum drums. But by that time the SAM missiles were there, and much of the gasoline had been concealed or moved away. Our losses were quite heavy.

I mention this as but one example of the soundness of MENDEL's judgment.

Mr. Speaker, our departed friend was one of the most colorful and most effective Members of this body. The hour was never too late, nor the distance too far, for him to do a favor for a friend. His personal friends were numbered in the thousands, throughout the Nation. He was one of the most sought after speakers in Washington and probably considering all the exertion involved, he accepted too many of those invitations. But that was the life he loved—standing before a multitude and expounding his views about America and how important it was for us to take those steps necessary to defend and preserve it.

In the death of MENDEL RIVERS I have lost a close personal friend. The Nation has lost a great advocate of every good cause. His own district has lost one of the most able and effective Representatives who has served here in my time. He was in deed and in truth a great American.

To Margaret and other members of the family I extend my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. DANIEL of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Nation mourns. Flags in the Capital City of Washington fly at half-mast. A State stands still in reverence and pays tribute to the memory of a beloved son.

There is a pall of sadness enveloping those whose lives were touched by the late L. MENDEL RIVERS, distinguished U.S. Representative

from South Carolina. Surely, this human reaction is understandable, natural and expected, even though it is admittedly selfish. But such a dynamic personality as this prominent man does not lead a life of illustrious public service without commanding widespread respect, admiration, and attention.

Citizens and public officials are grieved because this loss is a tragedy for our Nation. America has lost a patriot whose every fiber bristled at schemes by enemies of this country and their American sympathizers to overthrow the freest form of government in the world. In the passing of L. MENDEL RIVERS, the United States has lost a champion of a free enterprise system which has provided for its people the highest standard of living in the known world. MENDEL RIVERS loved his country with an old-fashioned kind of pride that is seldom found in our modern world of sophisticated theories and technology. Indeed, he devoted his entire being to insuring the security of this Nation and toward alerting the public to the dangers that imperil us both from without and within. He stressed the importance of foresight in preparations for our national defense, and he worked diligently for the modernization of our aging Navy. The importance of control of the seas was a history lesson he knew well, and one which he constantly repeated to those demanding "rock-bottom" defense programs. Even from his hospital room in Alabama during the last few weeks of his life, he turned to his work and expended life-giving energy to direct certain matters which he considered urgent.

The American serviceman has lost his most persuasive and effective proponent. From the enlisted men to the highest ranking officers, servicemen knew that they had no better friend and supporter than Congressman RIVERS. They loved him and knew he was behind them every step of the way as they defended our country. Just prior to Chairman RIVERS' entrance to the Alabama hospital, a large group of soldiers in Vietnam forwarded to him a symbolic token of their love and appreciation for his unflagging efforts on their behalf. It was a standard baseball cap which bore the affectionate inscription, "The Big Boss." What more appropriate recognition could he have had as his life's work unknowingly neared an end?

The forceful Congressman withstood constand attacks of the most vitriolic kind on his personal and professional competence. Yet, he was unscarred by these attackers, for he was bigger than such petty

prejudices. He never stooped to accommodate the originators of such biased accusations. Through his ability to ignore and withstand such false and emotionally motivated taunts, the character of this man was evident. He was his own man—independent and strong within himself. Such absurdities could not shake him nor weaken a position once taken, for he was firm in his convictions and unwavering in his efforts. He fought doggedly for that which he believed to be in the best interests of our country, regardless of the verbal assaults launched by his opponents.

As a 30-year veteran of the Congress, MENDEL RIVERS witnessed a world of changing priorities. Yet, never did he sway from his opinion that the single most important issue before our Nation was the defense of this country. In his mind, the preservation of our free system was the key to the existence of freedom throughout the entire world.

I have lost a dear personal friend. While serving as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I was honored to be associated with this great American. His beliefs, stamina, and persuasiveness gained my unqualified respect and his firmly avowed love of country, dedication, and motivation inspired me to work to the best of my ability. His assistance and friendship enriched my service here, as it did all those who knew him.

As the freshman member of the Armed Services Committee, I desire not only to pay tribute to our departed and revered leader, but also to refute another baseless charge which has been made by the press with respect to the chairman's treatment of junior members of his committee. I know all of the Members have read, as have I, the press' characterization of Mr. RIVERS as a dictatorial leader who rode roughshod over the freshmen members of that committee.

It has been my experience, Mr. Speaker, to serve under committee chairmen in the General Assembly of Virginia and in other bodies. I have never served with one who was more considerate of freshmen members or who was more fair in his treatment of his junior associates.

The American people owe a great debt to this noble man. Let us mourn his passing in the appropriate way. Then let us rise above the human condition of grief and remember him in a way that would do credit to his outstanding character and career. Let us maintain

a strong defense and revitalize those parts of it which have degenerated. This would be a fitting monument to the late Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS.

His family has my sincerest and most heartfelt sympathy. It is my prayer that God will grant him the peace and the rest that He has reserved for those who serve Him well.

Mr. LEGGETT. Mr. Speaker, few men could storm in and out or St. Peter's pearly gates as did MENDEL RIVERS in his waning weeks of life and death. Few men will ever achieve the stature of this Charleston leader. Whatever RIVERS did, he did emphatically and with the strongest of emotion. He was a man who did not care a little—he cared a lot—whether the issue was shipbuilding, servicemen's pay, the C–5A, the intermediate manned interceptor or the anti-ballistic-missile system.

That RIVERS could build the reputation he did as chairman of the most powerful committee in the House of Representatives in but 5 years is testament to his charismatic leadership and power.

The chairman knew the rules of the House and of his committee. He knew his staff, his subcommittee chairmen and the members of his committee. He was a tireless worker in molding the structure and entities of the House into a strong national defense policy.

If the chairman believed in the efficacy of the SALT talks he revealed this fact to no man. Not to admire the capability of Chairman RIVERS as he molded defense policy or mocked an ill-considered Pentagon policy is to be insensitive to greatness.

In spite of that greatness I participated as strongly as any of his House colleagues in challenging some of his conclusions on missile or war policy. In spite of those differences I cannot recall any favor or request of mine that he ever denied unless it was for more time in cross examination.

RIVERS was a skilled gladiator, a strong exponent of States rights, the southern way and military might—no subtle diplomacy his. He was a man who helped lead the survival of the United States through World War II—his reallocation of national priorities was to reemphasize the power of the nuclear deterrent.

Perhaps the best I can say of Chairman RIVERS is that if my country was ever under attack from a foreign aggressor, it would be most assuring to know that the stern leadership of L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina controlled defense policy.

To his wife, Margaret, and family I extend my most sincere condolences.

Mr. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, it is very appropriate on a day such as this when many of us feel great sadness because of the death of MENDEL RIVERS that some of us who may have from time to time disagreed with him on certain policy issues speak out and say how very found we were of him.

Many people do not know this, Mr. Speaker, but he helped me before I arrived in this Congress. I knew of MENDEL RIVERS when I was first campaigning for Congress. Many times during the past few years he has helped all of us in many kind of ways.

I think I would like to remember him best when he would look at me with a twinkle in his eyes and say "I helped you today, did I not?" And he did.

Mr. Speaker, I want to echo the remarks of the gentleman from California to the effect that MENDEL RIVERS never refused to listen. He never refused to try to help.

I think probably the greatest compliment that I could pay to him is that I believe this was a man who was competent and he always stated his cause very well. He handled his committee well. I know that I as a Member of this body shall miss him very much. I will miss hearing his strong voice on many issues of the day.

My wife Betty and I and the rest of our family extend to his family our deepest condolences. I think the country has lost, as has been well stated, a great patriot.

Mr. RHODES. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America has lost a great patriot, the House of Representatives has lost a great Member, and the great State of South Carolina has lost a great son in the passing of my very good friend, MENDEL RIVERS.

It was a great shock to all of us who knew him, because his heart certainly epitomized the strength of this man. He had plenty of heart, figuratively speaking, but his physical heart stopped beating. He was called to his Maker. This House will miss him and the country will miss him, because he was a man who had the strength of his convictions and the courage and ability to fight for those convictions.

Mr. Speaker, the country is better because of the fact that MENDEL RIVERS fought for those convictions, because they were not only right for him, but they were also right for the country.

In carrying on the work of the Congress and of the country after the passing of MENDEL RIVERS, I suggest that it may be easier for those of us who remain than it would otherwise be, because his life and his work in this body can serve as a beacon for our future aims and purposes, for our activities and actions.

We could not take a better model, a better beacon for our work, the work which must keep this country the greatest country on earth, than to reflect on and emulate the things which MENDEL RIVERS did, the causes for which he stood, and the great fights which he made on this floor.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Rhodes joins me in sending our deepest sympathy and condolences to MENDEL RIVERS' family.

Mr. WOLFF. Mr. Speaker, it is with sorrow that I join my colleagues in mourning the death of the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee, our late colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS.

Here was a man who personified the fabled "southern gentleman" of literature. Here was a man with whom one could have honest differences, as he and I certainly did; and yet maintain mutual respect, something that I believe Chairman RIVERS and I also had. It is important that Members of this body with differing philosophies be able to debate and discuss those differences with their colleagues. And I always found Chairman RIVERS willing to talk with me about those issues on which we differed.

Only recently I was able to work with the chairman on something about which none of us will disagree. This is "Operation Reunion," the program whereby our men in Vietnam are able to secure 14-day home leaves to visit with their families in the midst of tours of duty in the war zone. "Operation Reunion" came about, in large measure, through the work of Chairman RIVERS who cared so very deeply about our servicemen.

Having worked on this program with the chairman, I met the first flight of "Operation Reunion" when it came to New York several weeks ago and then while in Vietnam worked to have the program expanded and made more efficient. I spoke with many GI's who were able to participate in this program and know what an important morale booster it has been to them and their families. The success of "Operation Reunion" is a fitting tribute to the memory of a patriotic American. We all mourn the passing of Chairman RIVERS.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in expressing my sorrow at the death of L. MENDEL RIVERS.

The gentleman from the First District of South Carolina served the Nation long, but more importantly, he served his Nation well.

While many were satisfied to take the defense of our Nation as a prime concern during emergencies, the gentleman from South Carolina had the defense of our Nation foremost in his mind at all times.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he was responsive to the inquiries of his colleagues. I know that I had the occasion twice to inquire about military matters, once when a Russian Mig flew into Florida, and another time when Russian trawlers were spotted in our waters. Both times he carried out investigations into the matters in question.

I would also add that he helped to maintain the right of the House of Representatives and the Congress to raise and maintain armies according to the provisions of the Constitution.

I know that we will all miss the leadership and courage of Mr. RIVERS. My wife, Becky, joins with me in extending our condolences to his wife, Margaret, his two daughters, Margaret and Lois, and his son, L. Mendel, Jr.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, this House as it meets today is a far different place with the unfortunate departure of MENDEL RIVERS. He was colorful, he was forthright, he was strong in his views and in the love of his country. One could differ with him, as I frequently did, but one could not dislike or disrespect him.

I was privileged to know this remarkable man and to be his friend. He had his strong opinions, but he never shunned inquiry into controversy. MENDEL RIVERS' views on what occurred in the Vietnam village of Mylai were not the same as mine. But there is a strong possibility that the tragedy would not have come to light but for his intercession. When I received a letter from a returned Vietnam war veteran, Ron Ridenhour of Phoenix, claiming some terrible slaughter of civilians may have taken place in Mylai, I naturally asked Defense authorities to look into the allegations. But I also asked the help of MENDEL RIVERS and he, too, contacted the Pentagon and asked for the facts. I am convinced the military responded much more diligently because of his request and without his help the full extent of Mylai might have remained in obscurity. He was never too busy to listen to my requests or my problems.

MENDEL RIVERS was a man of the House. Too frequently some of the brightest and most promising Members leave this body after a short time to seek service in the Senate or at our State capitols. No doubt MENDEL RIVERS could have had any position within the power of the people of his beloved South Carolina to bestow. Yet he chose to begin and end his major political career in the House he loved. He was a student of the House, he loved the House. He left his mark on the House and the country.

In a position which influenced the spending of hundreds of billions of dollars, MENDEL RIVERS was a tower of personal integrity. No one in this place, where rumors are easy to start, ever heard a whisper against his personal integrity. He lived modestly and sought success in his career, not private wealth.

Now he is gone, but he will not be forgotten. I extend my sympathy to his widow and children, and join with all his colleagues in mourning the passing of a giant.

Mr. ABERNETHY. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for our country. It is a sad day for the House of Representatives. And, Mr. Speaker, it is particularly a sad day for me.

Only a few short days ago when several of us were having breakfast in the Longworth Cafeteria, as we often did, with our departed friend, MENDEL RIVERS, one would have never thought he would lie at this hour with his voice hushed, his body still, and his soul taken flight to a heavenly reward.

Mr. Speaker, in my 28 years as a Member of this body I have seen hundreds of Members come and go. Many of them were great. Many were hard workers. Many rendered fine service to this Nation. But none were greater than our departed friend, MENDEL RIVERS. None worked more energetically or harder. And, indeed, none rendered greater service to this Nation.

MENDEL RIVERS opened his office many mornings long before the sun had dispersed the darkness that enshrouded our beautiful Capitol. Day after day he put in long hours in the service of his people. On morning after morning at or before the hour of 8 a.m. Pentagon automobiles could be seen parking at the east entrance of the Rayburn Building. Alighting therefrom were the Nation's highest military leaders who had been called to attend a committee hearing of the powerful Committee on Armed Services which MENDEL RIVERS so ably served as chairman. MENDEL would call them out

early and have them stay late. He kept himself and his committee informed through lengthy and meticulous briefings and conferences with the military. His desire was to get the best information, to get it from the right source and to get it as quickly as possible. He never loitered or loafed. He was dedicated to maintaining a strong defense establishment and he saw to it that such was maintained. For his service, a service so important to this Nation existing as it is in a troubled world, we owe him, yes, the Nation owes MENDEL RIVERS, a deep debt of gratitude.

MENDEL RIVERS was a most intelligent person. He had a keen and powerful mind. He was a good student. And with all of this he was also a great speaker and a great debater. He never came to this Chamber half prepared. When he rose to speak he had studied his lessons. He knew what he wanted to say and said it effectively.

Holding a position of tremendous power in this House, he never abused that power. Yes, sometimes he was tough. One has to be and ought to be tough when dealing with military matters and the defense of this great Nation. But he was always fair.

Also, Mr. Speaker, our late friend was a tender person. He sympathized with the downtrodden. He opened his heart to help them. One of his greatest and most interesting traits was his tremendous sense of humor. He could coin a humorous phrase in a second and draw a quick laugh or a chuckle from his listeners with the greatest of ease.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in MENDEL's passing I feel a deep personal loss. He was my warm personal friend. On morning after morning over a long period of years he gathered with a group of us for breakfast in the Longworth Cafeteria. There we would cut and jibe at one another, all in fun, for 20 minutes or so before we started the daily routine in our respective offices. We enjoyed this association with MENDEL. This was a real "fun" hour. Now it can never be the same

I shall miss him, Mr. Speaker. So will this House of Representatives. So will his district, State, and Nation. He served them so well.

I deeply sympathize with his fine family and extend to each member my deepest sympathy. They have lost a fine husband and a loving father. I have lost a close and personal friend. And our country has lost a great and dedicated public servant.

Mr. PRICE of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the House in their expression of grief and sadness in the passing of one

of America's finest political figures, the Honorable MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina.

It was my good fortune to have been closely associated with MENDEL RIVERS for 24 of my 26 years of service in this body. I have worked with him in many of his favorite fields of interest—military airlift, research and development, nuclear propulsion for our naval vessels, and in his fight to make certain the United States was not caught short in the development of the next generation of manned bombers.

There has never been a more staunch and sincere friend of the men in uniform—those who devote their lives to the service of their country—than MENDEL RIVERS. They have lost—as we have lost—a real friend.

He was one of the most vigorous champions of adequate national defense. He wanted to make certain that America's military power was sufficient to serve as a deterrent to aggression from any source. He felt that such a deterrent was the best assurance that world peace would sometime be attainable. He sincerely believed that America's military strength was the only bulwark against another world war.

In fighting for recognition and better compensation for enlisted men from the time he first became head of the Armed Services Committee 6 years ago, he was striving to promote an interest in the military service which would attract career servicemen to devote their lives to their country's national security. He sponsored scores of acts to help the GI and their families. He was ever mindful of their interest.

He worked at his job early and late. Committee business drew his first attention. Like the good Congressman that he was, he never forgot the people back home. And their appreciation was shown in the great admiration and love they frequently expressed for him. I was privileged on several occasions to witness that deep respect in testimonials to him in his beloved Charleston.

I have lost a good friend. While our political philosophy on domestic matters was in conflict, he respected my views and I respected his. I know this is true with all other Members of the House—many of whom have frequently expressed to me their personal fondness for MENDEL RIVERS—despite conflicting views.

He was a great American. In his passing Congress loses one of its most effective advocates of national defense, at a time when the Nation's military arm is in acute danger of being crippled and ignored

through the emotional clamor of some who question the need of such strength.

Mrs. Price and I extend deepest sympathy to his wife, Margaret; his son, Lucius Mendel, and his daughters, Lois and Mrs. Robert G. Eastman.

Mr. MORGAN. Mr. Speaker, the passing of our distinguished colleague, MENDEL RIVERS, was a sad blow to me personally, but even more important, I recognize the loss that has been sustained by our country. I believe that all of us recognize that our national defense is of primary importance and that while we may become preoccupied from time to time with other matters and focus our attention on various problems which appear to be acute, we all count on our defense establishment being there when needed and we expect it to be organized and equipped to deal with any emergency.

MENDEL RIVERS dedicated his life to doing the job which I believe it is absolutely essential that the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives must do in order to assure that our defenses will be adequate.

I valued MENDEL RIVERS' services as a leader and a counselor in dealing with important foreign policy issues. He kept himself well informed with background of important world problems and played an active part in promoting an understanding of the issues which confronted us and in seeking the best way to deal with them.

I always regarded MENDEL RIVERS as a sincere patriot who was interested primarily in the security of his country. He worked hard at his job, he knew what was going on and felt that he had an obligation to take the initiative with respect to matters of national defense. Our Armed Forces are better organized, better equipped and better manned today because of his action and his influence.

It is hard for us to realize that he is no longer with us and all of us will find it difficult to adjust to the fact that he is not on hand filling the place we are accustomed to having him fill.

I want to express my sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and to his children in their bereavement, but I am sure their grief will be lightened by the fact that their husband and father had rendered such distinguished service to his country.

Mr. NATCHER. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has indeed lost a great Member in the sudden and untimely passing on December 28 of the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina.

Throughout his long and outstanding congressional career, MENDEL RIVERS served his district and his country with a deep sense of patriotism and courage. He was a man who always believed that every Member of the House should be an active committee member and at all times should do his homework. No Member who has served in the House of Representatives during the 20th century has worked more diligently to know and understand the many problems confronting the Armed Services Committee than my friend, MENDEL RIVERS, and in his capacity as chairman he gave tirelessly of his time and efforts in behalf of the individual serviceman as well as our overall Armed Forces.

MENDEL RIVERS will be greatly missed and I extend to Mrs. Rivers and other members of the family my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. WYMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the late, great MENDEL RIVERS. There was no more respected Member and no better friend to every colleague than the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina. He was kind to junior Members, gracious to his adversaries and extraordinarily vigilant for his country. MENDEL RIVERS typified the finest traditions and example of this great body.

I like to think of our dear departed friend as a man of granite, high on a windy hill, standing firm for a strong America against all comers. My native State of New Hampshire is known as "the Granite State." It would have been honored to have been able to claim MENDEL RIVERS as a native son. Since it cannot, it is fitting that I extend to his memory the greatest compliment to come from a sister State to South Carolina, the attribution of that quality of strength of character symbolized by our State motto in an accolade to an outstanding citizen of South Carolina.

Storms might come and go across the land. Storms from the right or the left, from those who sought to lessen our defense capabilities for more money for domestic priorities from any direction, but come hades or high water, our good friend and stalwart protector of defense MENDEL RIVERS stood like granite for America high on that windy hill.

His untimely passing comes at a perilous time and leaves a void in the House that will be well-nigh impossible to fill. Because he was a man who recognized that this Nation cannot make social prog-

ress if we do not first retain the basic freedom to pursue it, he became one of the strongest defenders the cause of an adequate national defense has ever had. As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, his was a clear voice insisting America not be lulled into a false sense of security. Running counter to the sweeping tide pressing for the enactment of far-reaching domestic programs at the cost of dangerously reduced defense outlays, MENDEL RIVERS correctly and passionately pointed out that all the improvements in the world could be wiped away in a few brief moments if America were not strong enough to guarantee the precious freedoms for which this Nation stands.

Those who labored with him to preserve our national security for the perilous times that lay ahead knew well that he had shouldered no easy task. When he accepted the call to a position of great power in the Congress, he did so only after first being prepared to assume great responsibility. MENDEL RIVERS never allowed great odds to deter him from taking unpopular stands dictated by his devotion to his country and her needs.

During his three decades in the Congress, MENDEL RIVERS' efforts in providing our Nation with adequate security have involved major reforms and improvements in the Defense Establishment. It has been through his efforts that this year has seen the beginnings of a long-overdue program to revitalize and modernize our aging naval forces. At the same time he has earned the reputation of being the strongest advocate the American soldier, sailor, and airman had in Government. Not only did he press continuously for improved equipment and support to enable our men in the field to perform the difficult and frequently dangerous task their country asked them to perform, but he led the fight for a series of pay increases and other improvements that have helped make and keep the American fighting man the best in the world.

All Americans, whatever their political beliefs, mourn the loss of this great man. MENDEL RIVERS was an outstanding man whose wisdom and farsighted devotion to his country will not be easily replaced. The voice he raised in his Nation's cause earned him the unwavering support of his constituents, the respect and admiration of his colleagues, and the loyalty and devotion of all Americans. His efforts were an inspiration to all who served with him.

Mr. Speaker, we have suffered a profound loss. A voice is stilled and we mourn the silence. Virginia and I extend our deepest sym-

pathy and heartfelt regret to his lovely wife, Margaret, and his fine family.

May God grant this great American eternal peace.

Mr. FOREMAN. Mr. Speaker, our country has lost a great statesman, the American servicemen have lost a close friend, the House of Representatives has lost an outstanding Member, and the State of South Carolina has lost a devoted servant with the untimely departure of L. MENDEL RIVERS.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, the Congressman from South Carolina was a hero to our military forces everywhere. His support of our Armed Forces is well known. He fought for all the military, from private to general—and has been praised by Presidents, generals, privates, Congressmen, and just about every military and patriotic group in the country.

One of his most prized possessions, was a field cap with six stars presented to him by a group of enlisted GI's he assisted in getting home for Christmas—one of his last official acts.

I am pleased and proud to have served on the House Armed Services Committee under the leadership of this great American. The Halls of Congress will not be the same without L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina. The death of MENDEL RIVERS is a serious, far-reaching loss to the United States of America.

Mr. PELLY. Mr. Speaker, America has lost a courageous leader with the death of Representative L. MENDEL RIVERS. But, his contributions to the defense of the land he loved will long be remembered.

In my 18 years in Congress, I have always been fortunate enough to have an office within a few doors of the gentleman from South Carolina. He always was a good friend and neighbor.

Particularly during the last few years, we shared thoughts on many issues of mutual concern. The two of us fought hard for a strong merchant marine, and he was a stanch backer of the supersonic transport program.

His eloquent words from the floor of the House will long ring in my ears. Always his great concern was for a strong Nation. He truly was a pillar of strength in the defense of his country.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying respects to L. MENDEL RIVERS. His leadership will be missed.

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, America has lost one of its most dedicated citizens and one of its outstanding leaders. MENDEL

RIVERS has left a mark upon this Congress that will long remain unequaled. His devotion to patriotism, his performance of his duty, is an inspiration to all who serve in public life. I will miss him as a personal friend and as a loyal colleague who was always most helpful to me when I came here as a freshman Congressman. America will miss the zeal he displayed in protecting the strength and defense of this country. Freedom is more secure because MENDEL RIVERS served in the Congress. I want to take this opportunity to extend my deep sympathy to the members of his family and to say a fond farewell to one of the most devoted Members of this body.

Mr. GIAIMO. Mr. Speaker, we mourn today the loss of a beloved and respected colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. RIVERS, who brought to this Chamber a sense of dedication and patriotism that time cannot erase. He will be missed by all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I always admired and respected MENDEL for his efforts in behalf of his constituency and his Nation. He believed, as I do, that the safety and security of all Americans must always be our first priority. In this time of turmoil, his counsel will be missed.

Perhaps the loss of L. MENDEL RIVERS will be most deeply felt by the millions of American servicemen at home and abroad, for he was their champion. He knew that our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen are not merely cogs in a war machine. He knew that they richly deserve all the benefits and protection that this Nation can provide. He dedicated his life to the fulfillment of their needs. For this he shall never be forgotten.

As we mourn our loss, it would do us well to remember the words of Ovid: "It is not wealth, nor ancestry, but honorable conduct and a noble disposition that make men great." By this measure, L. MENDEL RIVERS was a great American. His passing leaves a void that can never be filled.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Margaret and his family.

Mr. FOUNTAIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of my colleagues in their tributes to our late friend, L. MENDEL RIVERS.

For almost half of his allotted span of years in this world—30 years, MENDEL RIVERS walked the Halls of Congress, devoting himself to labor without ceasing on behalf of sound and sensible legislation. Especially did he labor for proper legislative attention to anything affecting the security of the land he loved with a fierce and unwavering devotion.

We will miss his astonishingly wise and sagacious counsel. We will miss his outstanding leadership. We will miss his courageous spirit of honesty and determination.

MENDEL RIVERS will be sorely missed in the Congress of the United States. He will be missed in the First District of South Carolina, which he served so ably and so long.

But, his loss will be keenly felt by a vastly wider constituency, a constituency comprising men and women from all walks of life and from all parts of our country—the members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Wherever they may be—on battlefield, on training ground, on garrison duty, on board ship, or in the air, countless men and women of our Armed Forces will mourn his passing.

For MENDEL RIVERS was not only the staunch and brilliantly articulate defender of a strong America, he was also the champion of those Americans in the ranks who may be called upon at any time to lay down their lives in defense of our freedom and safety and cherished independence.

He did this at a time when it has become increasingly popular to be critical of the men and women who stand ready to defend our national interests with military strength whenever the absolute need to do so arises.

MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina was a great and patriotic South Carolinian, whose name will never be forgotten so long as the name of South Carolina is remembered in the annals of American history.

But, in addition to that I do not hesitate to say that MENDEL RIVERS was a great American.

And that is, perhaps, the greatest single tribute that can be paid his memory.

May I conclude by extending my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and the entire Rivers family.

Mr. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, it seems odd that there can be two completely different views of the same person.

But really there was not in fact two MENDEL RIVERS—there was only one.

We, here, knew MENDEL RIVERS. We knew him as a friend; we knew him as a strong man and yet as a kind and courteous man.

Some, in the press, felt so strongly in opposition to his views on

the military that they let their fundamental difference distort the image of the man himself.

Today, we pay respect to MENDEL RIVERS the man.

As a relatively new Member to this body, I will always remember his kindness to me; I will always respect his courage.

MENDEL RIVERS fought for his district, his State, and for his country. And through it all, he had time to care about his friends and colleagues.

We shall miss him.

Mr. MONAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my words of regret, to those of others who have spoken, on the passing of our colleague from South Carolina, L. MENDEL RIVERS.

MENDEL RIVERS was a strong man and an able man. He was a master of the parliamentary procedure of the House. He was a skillful debater and an articulate and resourceful speaker above all, he was a master of the material which he handled and his knowledge of his subject was deep and extensive.

Although others have suggested a hardness and insensitivity about him, those who knew him knew also of his warmth and his interest in human beings of all segments of society. They were all alike to him in his interest and affection. Most illustrative of the capacity of his personality to break down preconceptions was the recent Life magazine article on MENDEL RIVERS in which the author began his story with a rather obvious and hostile bias, but gradually as he progressed with its writing succumbed to the charm of MENDEL, and his essential humility. This article ended by being a subtle laudation of our late friend rather than a destructive effort.

We shall certainly miss MENDEL RIVERS in the difficult days ahead and I sincerely hope that the example of his patriotism and his hard work and his devotion to what he considered his duty will long be before us as we meet great problems without his help.

Mr. JOHNSON of California. Mr. Speaker, our friend and colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS, has returned to his beloved home, St. Stephen, S.C., for the last time, and tomorrow he will be buried near his parents.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I join in bidding this distinguished legislator farewell. We will miss MENDEL's flowing white hair, his tart tongue, and his devotion to his constituents, his State, and his country.

Since the 77th Congress he has served his constituents and the Nation in a dedicated way. In addition no one questions the fact that he was indeed the champion of our GI's. He won many awards throughout his career of public service but I think he was most proud of the gift cap which the GI's gave him at Christmas time, inscribed to "the big boss."

It has been a pleasure for me to work with MENDEL since I was elected to serve in the House of Representatives in the 86th Congress. He was never too busy to lend a helping hand to a colleague.

His gaiety and wit brightened many hours of our lives, but his stature as a person will be long remembered. He stood for a strong national defense and a firm foreign policy and his passing is mourned by those who have been privileged to know and work with him.

Mrs. Johnson joins me in extending deepest sympathy to his beloved wife, Margaret, his two daughters, and his son.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Mr. Speaker, not only Congress but the entire Nation has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of our colleague MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina, who served with such ability and distinction as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

MENDEL RIVERS was a great American and a true patriot, who did not shrink from calling attention in the most forceful manner to the deadly peril in which we have placed ourselves by continuing cutbacks in national defense. No accusation or calumny could deter him from performing this great service for his country.

MENDEL RIVERS knew that if we reduce our military strength much more, we can forget all about our other "good causes," because we will no longer exist as a free nation to implement them. His speech on the House floor at the end of September, demonstrating this grim truth unmistakably, was one of the greatest ever delivered in the House of Representatives, and should be a landmark in its history.

Now he is dead, leaving none of comparable stature and experience to continue to sound the warning. I hope every good American will honor the memory of MENDEL RIVERS and speak out, as he did, for the sake of our national survival. That is the best tribute we could pay to his memory—and it is, I am sure, what he would want us to do.

Mrs. HANSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I join my distinguished colleagues this morning to pay tribute to our beloved col-

league, the late L. MENDEL RIVERS, and to extend to his family my deepest and sincerest sympathy.

Congressman RIVERS has been not only a dedicated Member of this House and a tremendously loyal American, but he has been one of the "kind" people in this House. Whenever there was a problem involving any serviceman I found Congressman RIVERS and his staff sympathetic, considerate, and understanding. His committee staff has been extremely able and courteous.

Congressman RIVERS was ever a gentleman, and ever thoughtful of individuals regardless of viewpoint.

This House will miss him. The Nation will miss him. And to his family, again, may I extend my deepest and sincerest sympathy in their sorrow.

Mr. STAFFORD. Mr. Speaker, during the past 10 years, it has been my privilege to serve as a member of the Committee on Armed Services and to become acquainted with the late, distinguished chairman of the committee, L. MENDEL RIVERS, both as a senior member of the committee while Carl Vinson was its chairman, and later during the 6 years MENDEL RIVERS chaired the committee himself.

Although very frankly, in most recent years, there were occasions on which I disagreed with the chairman, they were not many in comparison with all of the issues that have been dealt with by the committee in recent times.

I have always been deeply impressed by Mr. RIVERS' dedication to his responsibilities and the exceptionally long hours and hard work which he devoted to the job of chairman. I have been equally impressed by his sincerity in all that he has done. Even on those occasions when I disagreed with the chairman, I never doubted his complete sincerity in the position he occupied.

His was a long and distinguished career in the service of his country, one in which his family, as well as all who knew him can take great pride. We will all remember his dedication to the principle that this country should remain militarily strong not only for the security of the United States, but also in order to be an effective force for peace throughout the world.

The men and women of the armed services of the United States will remember Chairman RIVERS as their champion for better pay, better living conditions, more adequate transportation during periods of leave, and a great many other things which made life in the military service more pleasant.

MENDEL RIVERS was without a doubt a great man. This Nation will miss him, as indeed will I.

Mr. CABELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deep sense of personal loss at news of the passing of our distinguished colleague, the Honorable MENDEL RIVERS, a loss I know is felt by many other Members of this body as well as by his entire State.

No Member of this august body has been so conversant with matters pertaining to the defense of this country, and while we pay tribute to his many accomplishments, our sadness is tinged with the knowledge that at no time in our history is such knowledge and ability so greatly needed as now, when the very concept of our national defense is under such heavy attack from within our Nation.

Congressman RIVERS was aware of this unfortunate trend in our national thought and gave much of his time and thought in an effort to counterbalance it with positive evidence of support for our essential military structure. His strength cannot be replaced. But his example can serve as inspiration for all of us who love this great Nation as he did to step into the fight and make certain the efforts he has contributed will not have been in vain.

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, while Chairman MENDEL RIVERS was fighting for his life in Alabama after his surgery, I sent him a telegram of well wishes, and called him "the unsinkable MENDEL RIVERS" for this is how I regarded him. His demise was a shock and a tragedy to all America.

Prior to securing a seat on the Armed Services Committee, I came to regard Chairman L. MENDEL RIVERS as my friend. For the 4 years I was looking in on the committee, with various critical military matters for the west Texas district I represent, Chairman RIVERS treated me with great civility and understanding of our problem. So it was that I was pleased to have been named in 1969 to this great committee to serve under his leadership.

During these past 2 years of membership on the Armed Services Committee I came to appreciate his firm but fair directorship as chairman. He was a totally patriotic and dedicated American who had amassed an amazing amount of information and balance in knowledge of the defense needs and posture of the country. There is no doubt that our state of readiness can be attributed to him as he fought inch by inch for an adequate defense system.

He helped America, he helped the serviceman, he helped this Congress, and he certainly helped me innumerable times.

I regarded him as one of the outstanding, memorable, and colorful figures that have served in Congress. None has ever been more dedicated in the preservation of this Nation.

I know the people of his district are proud of this tall-standing product of a proud, historic area. I am sure that his family are proud of this now legendary personality, and can take comfort in the undying memory of a great American. Gone but never forgotten.

Mr. CHARLES H. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today it is my sad duty, along with my distinguished colleagues in the House, to bid farewell to one of the great leaders of our time. I bid farewell to L. MENDEL RIVERS as a colleague, as a member of the committee which he chaired and, especially, as a friend. I shall always remember the kindnesses which Chairman RIVERS showed to me and his willingness to go out of his way to provide whatever assistance he could to me in my efforts to represent the people of my district. The news of his death comes with suddenness and leaves a feeling of emptiness.

I remember last October when Chairman RIVERS was kind enough to come and visit my district personally, in order to visit with many of my constituents in southern California. He commented to me that he had not been feeling well and was somewhat concerned about some reports he had had recently about the condition of his heart. I expressed concern and we discussed the situation and his feelings for a short time. Now, looking back, I realize that it seemed inconceivable to me then that a man of such dynamism and strength would so soon be lost to us. His was a friendship that I feel grateful to have experienced.

Perhaps Chairman RIVERS' greatest characteristic was that, as a man who was in a position for which leadership was the primary requisite, he had the courage to lead. For this reason he was often viewed as a controversial figure, for he was never afraid to use his considerable abilities and energies in order to reach the goals which he felt were essential to preserve the strength and security of the United States. In an age where we hear to many calls for leadership, it is reassuring that we can today praise a man who never lost the fortitude to lead effectively and persuasively.

Although the chairman did not serve as an active member of the U.S. military, no military man ever had a better or more loyal friend

than L. MENDEL RIVERS. From buck private to five-star general, from the Air Force to the Coast Guard, the chairman saw to it that the American military man never had to take a back seat to any other individual in our society or any other. He understood above all that serving and defending one's country is a task and a profession to be admired and to be rewarded. As long as he was in charge there was never any doubt that this proper attitude would be the basic guideline by which important decisions affecting thousands of our men and women in uniform would be made. In this, he made a significant contribution toward insuring human dignity for a segment of our population which certainly has a priority claim to it.

I know also that Chairman RIVERS was a devoted father and a conscientious family man who cared very deeply about his wife and children. Being the father of four myself, we discussed, from time to time, some of the different situations that arise in a busy and active family. I learned firsthand of the love and respect which he always gave to those closest to him. To Mrs. Rivers and her family, Mrs. Wilson and I extend our deepest sympathy at the loss of our good friend from South Carolina.

Mr. BETTS. Mr. Speaker, the sad news which conveyed the information of MENDEL RIVERS' death was most distressing to me. Although his condition was constantly reported as serious, I was hopeful that he would survive his operation and I am sure that I was not alone in this hope. The fact that he is no longer with us is difficult to believe but it is one of those realities that we must prepare to face.

I learned to know him when I first came to Congress and our mutual friendship over the years has been a source of great pride to me personally. I admired him because there was no equivocation or hiding of his position. Everyone knew how he stood on every issue and he was always prepared to defend it.

MENDEL RIVERS was a dedicated American who believed in his country and gave his energy and talent to see that it was always protected from its enemies. His passing is a real loss not only to the Nation and the district he served for 30 years but also to his family and his many friends.

Much will be said about him and many will praise him now—but the record of his work and devoted service here in the House of Representatives will live on.

Mrs. Betts and I extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and her family at this time.

Mr. FEIGHAN. Mr. Speaker, it was with deep regret that I learned of the passing of my dear friend, our colleague MENDEL RIVERS. It was my privilege to know MENDEL well since I came to Congress in 1943. Since that time I have enjoyed his friendship and assistance so readily given.

MENDEL was truly a patriot. He worked untiringly to protect and to expand the general welfare of his fellow citizens and our Nation.

He was a good student of history. He knew well that in unity there is strength and that strength will protect and keep our Nation free.

MENDEL was very personable with a keen sense of humor. It was always pleasant being in his company. He was a thorough gentleman, with a strong character and firm determination.

To his lovely wife and family I extend my sincere sympathy.

Mr. KYROS. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness and profound respect that I join my colleagues today in tribute to a man who was so unquestionably devoted to our Nation, and to the security of our people.

Throughout my own service in this body I have learned to appreciate the many and varied persuasions and points of view held by my colleagues and I have especially come to appreciate those who represent their standpoint effectively and with dedication. The gentleman from South Carolina epitomizes this dedication and this effectiveness. We have lost a distinguished leader from our midst.

The passing of our colleague grieves me not only out of a sense of loss to our Nation, but also as a loss of a personal friend. Perhaps as a result of my previous service as a naval officer stationed in Charleston, S.C., Chairman RIVERS and I enjoyed a warm sincere friendship. He often found time to discuss with me matters of mutual concern and interest; as representatives of maritime districts, we often discussed the need for maintaining our Nation's seafaring traditions and naval strength. While we did not necessarily agree upon all matters, I found the chairman considerate, gracious, and always a true gentleman in every sense.

I think it was always apparent to all of us that L. MENDEL RIVERS was a devoted and sincere patriot; he was always unflinchingly devoted to the preservation of our national security. He lived by Biblical warning "if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for battle?" L. MENDEL RIVERS was never an uncertain trumpet in his country's cause. Our Nation's men in uniform knew

the gentleman from South Carolina as a man who shared their own dedication and who understood their views. As long as our Nation is rivaled by those who would use military force to seek their goals, we must have men such as MENDEL RIVERS in our Congress.

I mourn the passing of our colleague and my wife, Alice, joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to his beloved family at this time of deep grief.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Congress of the United States has lost one of its most able and influential leaders—Hon. L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina—and it is with a heavy heart that I join my colleagues in expressing my sorrow and condolences to the family of my good friend, who passed away yesterday.

As chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee, he stood stanchly for superior American military strength as our best means of maintaining a peaceful future. He was an outstanding citizen and a great patriot, and his family and friends are justifiably proud of his distinguished record of public service.

He first ran for Congress in 1940 when he won the South Carolina First District seat he has held ever since. For 30 years he served his constituents and his country with dedication and devotion. He had an unequaled understanding of the operations of the Defense Department and did all that he could to guarantee the security of our Nation through its military strength. Nothing could deter him from the course he deemed right for America, and his critics as well as his ardent supporters had the highest admiration for his steadfastness of purpose.

Chairman RIVERS was born in Gumville, S.C., and moved to North Charleston at an early age. As he grew up, he was determined to become a lawyer, and he worked hard to achieve his purpose. He attended the College of Charleston and law school at the University of South Carolina, passing the bar examination in 1932. After two terms in the State legislature, he came to Washington as a special attorney for the Justice Department.

Shortly thereafter, L. MENDEL RIVERS ran for Congress, and embarked on the active and very successful political career which has been cut short by his untimely death. His skill in the legislative field, and his keen insight and sensitivity to the needs and wants of the American people will be missed not only by his colleagues but also by his constituents whom he served so well from the 77th through the 91st Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege for me to have served in the Congress of the United States with Chairman L. MENDEL RIVERS. He earned our respect, our admiration, and a lasting place in the pages of American history.

Mrs. Annunzio joins me in extending to his widow, Mrs. Margaret Rivers, and to his two daughters and son, our personal and deepest sympathies on the loss of their beloved husband and father.

Mr. BOLAND. Mr. Speaker, the passing of Hon. MENDEL RIVERS takes from our midst a man of unforgettable character and enduring influence. Firm and unwavering in his conviction that the surest guarantee of peace is to be found in armed strength, he gave tirelessly of himself to upbuild American security at home and abroad. He was friend and advocate for American servicemen everywhere.

His leadership in Congress placed him among the most powerful champions of freedom in the world. He saw the international situation as one not only of grave concern but of dire peril, and in that light he labored to keep his beloved America strong. He won the respect even of those who differed with him.

L. MENDEL RIVERS came to this House as a young man of 35. In this year 1970, he had completed 30 continuous years of service. Through all his career he cherished the example of South Carolina's great leader, John C. Calhoun. And, indeed, he himself came to embody many of the virtues associated with Calhoun: Eloquence in oratory, vigorous convictions powerfully expressed, and deep, passionate loyalty. A man with cherished roots, loving his home, his State and its people, he was able to extend that concern to the whole Nation.

We shall not soon see another of his stature. We share the sorrow felt in his passing by his dear wife, his daughters, and his son, even as we also share the consoling pride which is theirs in the memory of his life and work. From that memory may we, his colleagues, take continued inspiration in these times.

Mr. STUBBLEFIELD. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House—individually and as a whole—feel it when we lose a colleague of great dedication; and, certainly, a great loss was felt yesterday when we sorrowfully learned that we had lost our dear friend and late colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS.

MENDEL RIVERS was certainly senior to me as he had been serving in Congress almost 20 years before I was elected; but from my first

days here, I learned from the counsel of this hard-working, conscientious man. Having Fort Campbell, Ky., in my congressional district, and being a relative newcomer to Congress, too, meant that I constantly sought advice and help from Chairman RIVERS. I found him unselfish and always willing to go out of his way to help make the task easier for a fellow Member who needed his assistance in either a small or large way.

MENDEL RIVERS was without fail the "soldier's friend;" and since his passing, I have heard from many active and reserve servicemen in my district who have expressed their deep sorrow over his untimely passing and said many personal things about this dedicated man, such as "I considered MENDEL RIVERS the next closest thing to my Kentucky citizenship." Remarks of this nature spell out the special love that our patriotic, fighting men had for this dear man; they considered him their protector and compatriot. I am sure that the servicemen of all 435 congressional districts, as well as their families, feel the same about MENDEL RIVERS. They shall miss him as we shall in the House, but can greater honor be paid to anyone than to have been regarded by so many as "protector and compatriot"?

Mr. ADDABBO. Mr. Speaker, the death of our colleague, the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS, marked the passing of a legend. As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Congressman RIVERS proved to be a powerful and consistent spokesman for a strong military and an unbending national defense posture.

In addition to his well publicized and sometimes controversial actions as a committee chairman, Congressman RIVERS represented his South Carolina constituency for 30 years. He was a Representative in the true sense of that word, concerned about the problems of his people and determined to stand up for their beliefs in the Congress.

When a legendary figure is taken from a nation, there is a loss which cannot be filled. We have lost a legendary colleague but history has recorded the details of his career for future generations to remember.

I join with my colleagues in extending sympathy to the members of the Rivers family.

Mr. WHITEHURST. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the eloquent statements made by my colleagues on behalf of our beloved late chairman, L. MENDEL RIVERS. My own words can only echo their

reflections on this remarkable man, who served his country so long and faithfully. My acquaintanceship with MENDEL RIVERS was brief, extending just across my first term here in the 91st Congress; but during this period I came to recognize those same virtues which my colleagues saw evidence of over many years—his courage, his fighting spirit, his uncompromising determination to provide for the defense of our republic, and his great love of America.

On a more personal note, I will always remember his courtesy toward me as a freshman member of his committee. Countless times he went out of his way to be helpful to me and to honor my requests, whatever they were. He told me on our first day that the Armed Services Committee had no place for politics. He was as true as his word, never manifesting the slightest degree of partisanship in conducting committee business. His single concern was our national security. Individual members might have taken issue with him on specific points, but at no time did this influence his personal relationship with them. This is a mark of manliness, and I have never seen it displayed by anyone else in such a grand manner.

That he was a friend of the serviceman was made clear to me wherever I traveled among military personnel. From admiral to seaman, from private to general, I heard nothing but praise for the chairman's efforts to improve the condition of our career military personnel. His tireless efforts on their behalf will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I regard his passing with the very keenest regret. A part of America has died, and it shall not be soon replaced. I join with my distinguished colleagues of this body and with millions of Americans in mourning his passing.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season and the closing days of the 91st Congress were tragically saddened by the untimely passing of our great friend and colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS of Charleston, S.C.

All of us in the House of Representatives who were fortunate enough over the years to enjoy the example of our dear friend MENDEL's great work, wit, and gentlemanly southern charm, have suffered a great personal loss.

Of greater significance, however, is the loss to the Nation of Mr. RIVERS as chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the House. L. MENDEL RIVERS from this all important post that he occupied

with such great competence and diligence, will be sorely missed. The Nation's valiant armed services throughout the world have truly lost one of their greatest champions.

MENDEL RIVERS' great city of Charleston and the State of South Carolina has now been deprived of their strongest advocate. His dedication and devotion to his constituency are legend and I am sure that his outstanding accomplishments will long be remembered by his beloved city and State who benefited from his faithful service.

Mrs. Friedel and I extend to his family our deepest sympathy at this sad time.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the late gentleman from South Carolina.

Chairman RIVERS was a powerful man—not only in the power inherent in his committee position, but in the power of his beliefs, of his dedication, of his devotion to his country. He had this power and he used it. In doing so, he frequently met disagreements with many of his colleagues—and when he did, he was a formidable adversary. Even though there was disagreement at times, no one ever questioned that he was fighting for principles in which he believed and principles which he sincerely believed were in the best interest of our Nation.

With the passing of L. MENDEL RIVERS, an era ends, but he has left his work and the future generations of Americans will profit from the work and determination of this man from South Carolina.

I extend my condolences to his lovely wife, Margaret, and their two daughters and son in this time of bereavement. I know they will be comforted in their loss by the knowledge of his many great accomplishments over the years.

Mr. LANDRUM. Mr. Speaker, I join with the Members of the South Carolina delegation, the Speaker of the House and others in expressing my sorrow and paying my respects and tribute to the late Honorable LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina.

It seems as if it were only yesterday when I first came to know Mr. RIVERS. In 1953 when I entered this body MENDEL was already a veteran of 12 years' service. He was extremely cordial and helpful to me as a new Member. From the very first we developed an affectionate friendship which continued until his untimely death on yesterday. His death is a deep personal loss to me and creates a void which will be difficult to fill. Our offices were always located close

to each other, both in the Old Cannon Building and since 1965 in the new Rayburn House Office Building. He was a source of good advice, of wise counsel, and of help and assistance when either was needed.

Mr. Speaker, a large measure of the close association with MENDEL RIVERS derived from the close association between him and Carl Vinson who was dean of our Georgia delegation during the entire time of my service in Congress until Mr. Vinson retired at the end of the 88th Congress. Mr. Vinson reposed great trust and confidence in MENDEL RIVERS, and when he retired from Congress and from the chairmanship of the Committee on Armed Services, he did so knowing that he relinquished the chairmanship into the hands of a capable successor. If he had felt otherwise, I dare say he would never have voluntarily left the Congress.

Congressman RIVERS was knowledgeable and effectively knowledgeable on all matters within the jurisdiction of the committee which he chaired. Originally a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs, he was originally known and referred to as the champion of the Navy, but I have never known him to show any partiality among any of the armed services of the United States. He did much to subdue interservice rivalries and to create a balanced force with each service complementing the other two. He encouraged teamwork and played a major role in the development of that teamwork.

When the House considered and passed H.R. 18970, the Trade Act of 1970, MENDEL RIVERS made an impassioned speech in behalf of this legislation. He addressed his remarks largely to the textile import quota title of that bill and spoke as knowledgeably for the need for that legislation as if he lived in a heavy textile producing district. He spoke eloquently of the great importance of a strong textile industry to an adequate national defense and documented his assertions with carefully researched and factual data. I believe that his speech was one of the more effective speeches during debate on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, I have lost a warm and devoted personal friend. His family has lost a devoted husband and father. His district has lost a masterful Representative, his State a great and noble son, and the United States of America has lost one of its greatest patriots. We shall all miss him, but at the same time, we are all grateful to have known him and we in the Congress to have served with him as a friend and colleague.

Mrs. Landrum joins me in extending our sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and their three children.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of grief that I join my colleagues in mourning the passing of a giant among us. The late gentleman from the First Congressional District of South Carolina represented the people of his district for more than 30 years in the House of Representatives.

MENDEL RIVERS was widely known as "the serviceman's best friend" and the "serviceman's Congressman" because of his kindnesses and consideration for our men in uniform.

His appraisal of the world situation closely paralleled my own. He knew that the best road to peace is a strong defense. For many years he criticized those who would make "cost effectiveness" the sole criterion for our military expenditures. Recent reports would indicate that he was much closer in his analysis than were his adversaries.

Mr. Speaker, the distinguished chairman of the House Armed Services Committee will be missed by us all, and to Mrs. Rivers, his children, and all of those who knew him, I extend my heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. BROYHILL of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, patriotism and Americanism may, among some elements of our population, be words of waning importance. However, when applied to our late colleague whose death has saddened us all, they glow with the full and enduring character, since he lived them in their fullest meaning throughout his life.

We can thank him, my friends, for his singleness of purpose and determination that time and again saved this Nation from dismantling its defenses.

We can thank him for his understanding, his grasp of our military needs, and for his unstinting service—service that wore out a strong heart and eventually took him from us.

He was a man of his times. He was an American to the fullest sense of the word, for his people and his country. He was a patriot—a patriot whose depth of character and loyalty paralleled the lives of those men who first dreamed and then made America work from the beginning.

He was my friend and I shall miss him. He was our colleague and we needed him. He goes from among us with my full prayers, into a peace he so well earned while among us.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives and the Nation have suffered a great loss in the passing of the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS. As a great American he loved his country and demonstrated his loyalty throughout his life.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, he stood firmly for the rights of every man who served in the military. He held an unyielding position in his belief in the defense of this Nation. He was a courageous and dynamic leader whose voice will be missed in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. WHALEN. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply shocked to learn of the death of Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

As a member of the committee, I came to know Chairman RIVERS well. Although he and I frequently disagreed it was always on a philosophical, not on a personal basis. In fact, he took pains at times to provide those of us who differed with him with additional opportunities to be heard.

MENDEL RIVERS was a dedicated public servant. Many of the improvements in the military services that have come about in the last several years are directly attributable to his leadership. He was a stanch patriot whose intense love of country was the driving force in meeting his responsibilities as a Member of Congress. There is no accolade that he would have preferred more than that of patriot. I have no doubt that he always will be remembered in this vein.

My wife and I extend to the Rivers family our deepest sympathy over their great loss. May God comfort them in their grief.

Mr. CORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with my colleagues in this eulogy to MENDEL RIVERS and to express my deep sorrow at his death.

The 30 years that MENDEL RIVERS spent in Congress were dedicated to his belief that America's freedom was solidly tied to its military might, and he never swerved from his commitment to this belief. He knew criticism and opposition, but he remained firm in his conviction that America must above all else remain militarily strong. His efforts to benefit the enlisted soldier were undeniable. Their gratitude, which many of them publicly avowed, must have been a great source of satisfaction to him.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, MENDEL RIVERS had assumed a high place in the House hierarchy, and in this post

he served his country with the same sense of devotion with which he served the people of his own State and of his congressional district.

Chairman RIVERS was a familiar figure in the Halls of Congress. Probably one of the busiest Members, he always took time to stop—in the corridors—in the dining room—on the floor—to chat for a few moments. A friendly and cheerful man, with a fine sense of humor, and with a particular life-style of his own that openly reflected his boundless patriotism to his country, his death is a loss to us all.

Mrs. Corman and I extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and the family.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this past Monday, our country lost a great patriot and we in Congress a great friend.

L. MENDEL RIVERS was the personification of the high ideals for which this body stands. A stalwart supporter of our country's security, his farsighted and untiring efforts in behalf of our Nation's defenses knew no bounds.

As a chairman he conducted the affairs of the Armed Services Committee in a most efficient and responsible manner. Always on the alert, his constant attention to the strategic needs of our defensive systems is a contribution for which he will long be remembered.

It is with deep sorrow that I join my colleagues today in paying tribute to this great American. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to his family and his many friends.

Mr. DERWINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing sorrow at the loss of our colleague Representative L. MENDEL RIVERS. He could truly be described as one of the key Members of the House; as a Member who very effectively fulfilled the role of leadership which he had attained.

He was dedicated to the strength of this Nation, to its national security and defense preparedness. He properly respected the role of the military in defending the freedoms which we too often take for granted. He also properly respected the role of our military in defense of the free world. He recognized the continued danger to the United States and its allies, of the ever-continuing Communist aggression.

MENDEL RIVERS was also dedicated to the House of Representatives, to its Members and the constituents that they represented. He

was a patriot in the finest sense of the word, and also a keen student of government and a master tactician in the legislative branch.

We will certainly miss him in his role of chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. We will also miss him as a respected colleague and a warm, and always friendly associate. He served his country with rare devotion, and this service will long be remembered by those of us who were privileged to serve with him.

Mrs. Derwinski joins me in extending sympathy to his family.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, the country has lost a great patriot and an outstanding statesman and I have lost a friend. My personal grief and sorrow at the death of MENDEL RIVERS is great but it is overwhelmed at the sense of loss that I feel for our Nation. Those of us who knew him on a personal basis, especially the members of the congressional prayer breakfast group, will mourn his death and pray for renewed strength to continue in his absence.

Mr. PHILBIN. Mr. Speaker, MENDEL RIVERS was a religious, God-fearing man. He was devoted to his church and a believer in the American principle of free religion, which has played a major part in the development of this Nation.

He was a man of deep, spiritual faith and when I traveled with him on various occasions, I noted that on Sundays, he always attended church without fail, even in instances when he might have to go far out of his way to do so.

He was also broad and tolerant in his views toward all religions, and I have known him to attend religious ceremonies in churches other than his own.

He had respect for other beliefs, and the religious views of other people and devoutly believed in the Lord.

At times he was maligned and many lies were circulated about him that were without foundation. In public life, he was often the victim of gross misrepresentations, but it never shook his faith in the public calling, and it never caused him to lose his faith in the people whom he loved with all his heart. He was a great and good man.

Mr. COLLINS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for Congress as we all join together to pay our respects to MENDEL RIVERS. For 15 terms he has served his country with distinction and honor as a Representative from South Carolina.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he carried forward progressively a balanced defense program for America. His

committee was recognized for the efficient way it evaluated and expedited all of its business.

But I will always remember MENDEL best as the friendly southern gentleman that he was. Two weeks ago I was sitting in the gallery with some folks from home. MENDEL walked across the floor and they all immediately wanted to know who he was. When I said RIVERS, they all knew him by reputation. They knew of all his active commitments. The impressive thing to them was that he looked like the man they visualized him to be.

MENDEL RIVERS looked like a southern colonel. He had a strong carriage. His white solid hair gave him depth. His glasses reflected his intellectual capacity. His friendly smiling face with his twinkling eyes was his great strength. You could see in MENDEL a warm man who loved his friends and respected his adversaries.

MENDEL RIVERS was a great man. He was a wonderful friend and a great national leader. To his family, I extend my heartfelt sympathy. Your loss is shared by the South and the entire Nation.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep personal sorrow that I join my colleagues in this tribute to the late L. MENDEL RIVERS.

To have had MENDEL RIVERS as a personal friend was a gainful experience for me, indeed. Although I disagreed with him on many of his statements and positions, I am convinced that he was a deeply sincere man with an unshakable dedication to serve the people of South Carolina and this Nation in his own way, to the best of his ability. A loyal patriot, devoted to the preservation of America's greatness, he believed that without military superiority, real greatness could not be achieved in the light of competing ideologies. History may someday construe his position as one which helped to preserve what we Americans hold so dear—a free and independent nation among free peoples everywhere. Only time will tell.

During his rise from a boyhood spent in relative poverty to a position of power in Congress, MENDEL RIVERS showed himself to be a man of considerable personal integrity and courage who was always true to himself. There was truly only one of his kind and we shall sorely miss his strong leadership.

To Mrs. Rivers and her family, I extend deepest sympathy and

heartfelt condolences. May the blessings of the Almighty be upon them in this hour of bereavement.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, we live in a time when many profess that they know the absolute truth. But this is also a time when it is hard to find many who will stand by their statements, people who really have faith in their convictions, people who are unashamed to take a stand. MENDEL RIVERS was a man who had faith. He had beliefs, he said what he believed, and felt no necessity to apologize for it.

Of him it can be said, as Paul said of himself:

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

There are many who did not agree with MENDEL RIVERS, but no one ever accused him of avarice. No one ever accused him of making empty gestures. No one ever had any doubt about where he stood. He believed passionately in the things he defended, and his faith was not doubted by any man, even his most ardent enemies.

Now MENDEL RIVERS is gone. We will miss him, as any ship's captain would miss a familiar landmark. Some would say he was a rock, a shoal endangering the Nation; but others would say that if he was a rock he was one the Nation could stand on.

Now he is gone, dead as all men must be one day.

I hope that this House will see more men of such faith, for we need them. The business of the Nation is too pressing for us to be surrounded by men of shallow gestures and shallow deeds. We need men who have the courage of their convictions, as this man did.

If we would remember MENDEL RIVERS, let it be as keepers of the faith.

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to one of our most distinguished colleagues, L. MENDEL RIVERS. He was a patriot, he was courageous, he was outspoken for his country.

There were times in which I disagreed with Chairman RIVERS and his appeal for what I thought was an excessive military might which burdened the Nation and which crushed other human needs. We had differences—but seldom did we have different goals. He fought for the Military Establishment better than any admiral or general—they fought for power and inner rivalries. He fought for all branches of the service. He fought for strength beyond any challenge—the greatest strength of all.

It was my privilege to know MENDEL RIVERS and his family. Mrs. Vanik and I were guests at his home. He and Margaret were gracious, kind, and warm. They provided an almost forgotten kind of hospitality and gentility.

Mrs. Vanik and I express deep regret to Margaret Rivers on the untimely passing of this distinguished American.

Mr. McKNEALLY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I sent the following telegram to the widow of MENDEL RIVERS:

DECEMBER 28, 1970.

Mrs. L. MENDEL RIVERS,
Charleston, S.C.:

My profoundest regrets with the passing of your husband, a patriot in the most exalted tradition. He stood up strong and brave against inexorable enemies for what was best for America. Make no mistake, his enemies though they be alive will not triumph. It is not in the economy of the Lord. As time goes on the place in history of MENDEL RIVERS will stand supreme, the equivalent of America's greatest contributors. The hound dogs of malice in the press can have their mean and evil and salivating satisfaction. No American, repeat American, with any appreciation of America's responsibilities, its essential nature, and the direction of history, can fail to revile his enemies in the same measure that they mourn his loss. My deepest sympathy and affection.

MARTIN B. MCKNEALLY,
Member of Congress.

Mr. McMILLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to insert their remarks in the Record on the passing of our late colleague, the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Albert). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. McMILLAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

RESOLUTION

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS, a Representative from the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That a committee of seventy-one Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provi-

sions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints as members of the funeral committee the following members on the part of the House: Mr. McMillan, Mr. Albert, Mr. Gerald R. Ford, Mr. Boggs, Mr. Arends, Mr. Dorn, Mr. Gettys, Mr. Watson, Mr. Mann, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Hébert, Mr. Whitten, Mr. Fisher, Mr. O'Konski, Mr. Philbin, Mr. Sikes, and Mr. Corbett.

Mr. Price of Illinois, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Hays, Mr. Bray, Mr. Rogers of Colorado, Mr. Byrne of Pennsylvania, Mr. Gubser, Mr. Jonas, Mr. Bob Wilson, Mr. Flynt, Mr. Flood, Mr. Minshall, Mr. Sisk, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Lennon, Mr. McFall, Mr. Pirnie, Mr. Rostenkowski, Mr. Slack, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Randall, Mr. Clancy, and Mr. Hagan.

Mr. Hall, Mr. Ichord, Mr. King, Mr. MacGregor, Mr. Pike, Mr. Stafford, Mr. Nedzi, Mr. Leggett, Mr. Long of Maryland, Mr. Patten, Mr. Charles H. Wilson, Mr. Pickle, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Long of Louisiana, Mr. White, Mr. Wyman, Mr. Brinkley, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Miller of Ohio, and Mr. Montgomery.

Mr. Nichols, Mr. Whalen, Mr. Mollohan, Mr. Foreman, Mr. Beall of Maryland, Mr. Daniel of Virginia, Mr. Landgrebe, Mr. Whitehurst, and Mr. Córdova.

There was no objection.

Mr. McMILLAN. Mr. Speaker, I have been requested by Mrs. Rivers to advise the House that memorial services will be held at the Washington Cathedral at 1 p.m., Wednesday, December 30, 1970, for the late Congressman L. Mendel Rivers. Services will be conducted by the Reverend Dr. C. Leslie Glenn, canon of the Washington Cathedral.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN BUCHANAN

OF ALABAMA

Mr. Speaker, the death of our distinguished colleague from South Carolina has left those of us who were privileged to serve with him in the House of Representatives with a deep sense of sorrow and loss.

I shall always count my association with Chairman RIVERS as one of the richest treasures afforded me by my service in the Congress. His friendship was greatly valued, as was the example of leadership which he provided all of us in the House of Representatives.

The parting of this outstanding American is not merely a personal loss to those of us fortunate enough to have served with him in the Congress, however. His death represents a great loss to the U.S. Government, and most especially the legislative branch in which he served for 30 years; to the House Armed Services Committee, which he has so ably led as its chairman; to the citizens of South Carolina's First Congressional District, whom he has served so well for so long; and to our beloved Nation, whose security has been maintained to a very great extent through Chairman RIVERS' untiring efforts toward an adequate defense posture.

MENDEL RIVERS shall be missed greatly. This great American shall long be remembered, as will his distinguished record of service to his country.

ADDRESS BY HON. CHALMERS P. WYLIE

OF OHIO

Mr. Speaker, Sunday, December 27, 1970, was a day marked by sadness and reflection on the passing of our distinguished colleague,

the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS. The Nation, his home State of South Carolina, and free men everywhere have lost a courageous leader.

I feel somewhat presumptuous in extolling this great man since my only close contact with him was through the House prayer group and so many persons, who had known him longer and more intimately than I, have expressed themselves.

In 4 years, I came to know Mr. RIVERS as a very religious man. He came every Thursday morning to the meeting of the House prayer group. On Thursday before his operation, he told the prayer group about it, about the fact that he had a leaky heart valve—as he put it—and about the fact that if it had not been repaired, he would have been an invalid. He said the one thing he would never be was an invalid. But, he assured us that he had a great surgeon; that he would be back soon. And then he added: "Boys, pray for me."

MENDEL RIVERS was a classic example of an Horatio Alger in our time—a man who rose from a humble beginning to become a Congressman and a national figure as the powerful chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services. In that position, he used his great power with courage and wisdom. He knew that we live in a dangerous world, and the special responsibilities imposed on the United States for maintaining world peace required a posture of military strength. The political fads that from time to time called for a downgrading of military preparedness never caused Chairman RIVERS to deviate from his view that American security was dependent on military strength.

The Republic has lost a great legislator, respected by all, because he dared to take a stand, stick to his guns, and proceed on a course which he felt was proper. This is why L. MENDEL RIVERS will go down in history as one of the great men of the House of Representatives.

Marjorie and I extend our deepest sympathy and heartfelt regret to his wife, Margaret, and his fine family.

ADDRESS BY HON. B. F. SISK

OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Speaker, I should like to join my colleagues in mourning the passing of a great American, the late L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina. He was one of our Nation's top leaders in the fields of national defense and security. He was an ardent patriot who worked tirelessly to assure the military superiority of this country.

His strong support of the military and its programs earned him the loyalty and respect of servicemen everywhere, especially the men in the ranks whose lot in life he worked to improve, especially in the area of adequate salary and compensatory benefits. He believed in rewarding these persons who were fighting for all Americans.

South Carolina and the Nation will miss him also for his skill in all facets of the legislative endeavor. In addition he was the very model of a southern gentleman, courtly, courteous, and generous to a fault.

Mrs. Sisk and I join in expressing our sympathy and sorrow to Mrs. Rivers and their children.

ADDRESS BY HON. THOMAS N. DOWNING

OF VIRGINIA

Mr. Speaker, this is the day that those of us who have concerned ourselves with the national defense of the United States of America have feared, the day when our beloved L. MENDEL RIVERS would no longer be among us. I could not let this day pass without providing for the benefit of our colleagues the remarks he made on his last appearance in my district. The occasion was the keel-laying of the U.S.S. *South Carolina,* a nuclear-powered guided-missile frigate at our great shipyard in Newport News.

Chairman RIVERS was indeed at his best. He was driving yet another nail in the great bastion of our defense which he championed during his entire career of service with us. As a tribute to him and to the things for which he stood, I include his remarks in the Record for today, the day on which he is being laid to rest:

Transcript of Remarks by Hon. L. Mendel Rivers, U.S.S. "South Carolina" Keel Laying, December 1, 1970

Secretary Chafee, Admiral Zumwalt, distinguished platform guests, my own colleagues from the Congress, my fellow South Carolinians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I don't know what I can say, I think the best thing to say is "Let's eat!"

To date, my wife has already made the best speech.

Admiral Rickover started off on my side and when he finished, I don't know whose side he was on! He fixed the politicians forever.

And my dear friend, Senator Thurmond, whom I love, and all of South Carolina knows this, with that wonderful speech he gave to all of you, and the history contained therein, there's very little for me to say.

But I want to pay my respects to this great shipyard. No shipyard in America or anywhere has done more for his country than has this one. Its ships in all the wars in which we have been engaged have been first class. The only shipyard in America that can build a carrier—the only one. And now it's taking on the line of the nuclear frigates—the largest surface ships we are building outside of the carrier.

Then to come to the District of my dear friend, Tom Downing. When Tom Downing wants something, he gets it. He hangs around us like Grant around Richmond, but he gets what he wants. He thinks all ship construction should begin and end in Newport News and that the rest of the shipyards should be nothing more than satellites. And it's a real pleasure to be in your District, Tom, and see your wonderful people, and these great workers, and this great corporation which has done so much for America.

Then to have so many of my own South Carolinians here, and members of my staff, and of my office. This is a great day for South Carolina . . . the year in which we celebrate our 300th anniversary.

Then we have the greatest coach on earth, Paul Dietzel, of our great football team. Paul Dietzel is here. Paul, are you still here? Stand up. Where are you? There you are! He even came for the occasion. A great ambassador is Paul Dietzel.

Then there's another man here whom every sailor man knows. The greatest civilian back of our United States Navy, Frank Jameson, president of the Ryan Aeronautical Company in San Diego, California. Where are you, Frank? Frank is Mr. Navy League. He runs the Navy League; he owns the Navy League; he makes the Navy League do everything for the United States Navy, and he came all the way from California to be here and, Frank, we appreciate it.

And then, my very dear friend, Chet Holifield—Mr. Atomic Energy—the one man in the Congress, the one man in the Congress, who has done more than all of us combined to see that your Navy had nuclear power. And his lovely wife, Chet, you all are so good to come.

I don't need to tell you about Admiral Rickover, because he's already told you. But this man represents his country always. He never, ever, ever shirks from responsibility and, if there is a person on earth who comes before a Congressional committee and tells it like it is, that's one Hyman Rickover, and

this is kind of refreshing in Washington—and we need more like him. I just told him that I was going to introduce a bill next week making him Admiral in Perpetuity. I think that would be a good title.

And I want to say something I've written here. If I read it, it will be the first speech I've read in 65 years, but I want to say one or two things that are in my heart about this nuclear frigate.

This thing was born in controversy. Born in controversy, because this ship (and its sister ship) was a real confrontation between your Congress and your President. We had to live with a man by the name of Robert Strange McNamara, and he was determined to give America obsolescent ships from the very beginning, and the John F. Kennedy is one of those. The John F. Kennedy was born in obsolescence. That should have been a nuclear powered carrier (and, Bill Martin, you know this). And he was determined not to build this ship. He was determined not to build the California. And your Congress, which started the nuclear program against the Executive Branch of the government, gave you the nuclear submarines, and your Congress alone did it. And we were equally determined that you'd get nuclear frigates. We put in a provision—I happen to be the author of it—that the President of the United States should order these ships built unless he wrote the Congress that it was not in the national interest. McNamara went to one Lyndon Johnson and asked him to write a letter saying it was not in the national interest, and Lyndon Johnson had sense enough not to do it. And that's why we have the DLGN–36 and the DLGN–37, and we'll get others. Out of that confrontation came a new Secretary of Defense by the name of Clark Clifford, and he ordered these ships to go forward and his successors have carried on—to their great credit.

And so, all I want to say, and I have finished, is that this ship began in a stormy sea, and, if you can find any stormier sea than the Congress of the United States, I'd like to know what the name of it is. But, as Chairman of your Committee on Armed Services, I plan to give your Congress the opportunity to try to catch the Russians in the days that I have, because today I'm not sure we're ahead of the Russians; I'm not sure we could beat them if we met them on the high seas, and my authority for that is one Hyman Rickover. A lot of our battle wagons would take off for the battle, but they wouldn't get there, because 80 percent of your Navy is old and 80 percent of their Navy is new. And come January, your Congress is going to have the opportunity to try to begin the catch-up, and already we've stared . . . I have my Acting Chief Counsel here with me today . . . and our bill is well on its way to being prepared for introduction.

I am determined, as is your great Committee on Armed Services, that in your lifetime your Navy will not melt away, or as Kipling said in his famous lines:

> "Far-called our navies melt away;
> On dune and headland sinks afire:
> Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
> Is one with Nineveh and Tyre."

And Lord God—Lord God, be with us—lest we forget this commitment with our destiny which I plan to keep, so help me God.

I'm glad to be here today, Mrs. Rivers and I are honored beyond expression that we could participate in the program for this ship which bears the name of our great State. It's a humbling experience—one I shan't forget. And to receive the hospitality of these warm Virginians, these great Americans, together with the presence of my own people, this is something I shall remember as long as I live.

Thank you very much.

ADDRESS BY HON. DAN ROSTENKOWSKI

OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of L. MENDEL RIVERS, the Nation has lost one of its most outspoken patriots, the State of South Caroline has lost its most distinguished statesman, and I have lost one of my closest friends.

The death of our great Chairman last Monday leaves this body with a vacuum that will be very hard to fill. Many tributes have already been paid to this great man, as I am sure, many more will be in the weeks ahead. But, the greatest memorial to this man is the record that he compiled during his many years in the Congress. It is a memorial that will stand long and proud in honor of a man who was dedicated to the security and defense of his country. As a Member of Congress for the last 12 years, I have had the honor and privilege of sitting with him during many memorable sessions. I am especially thankful for having had the opportunity to Chair the debate of many of Mr. RIVERS' bills. His knowledge of military matters, his parliamentary expertise, coupled with his extraordinary wit, made these sessions most rewarding.

I could go on to list almost endless awards and citations Chairman RIVERS has received, but these, I am sure, are already known to all of us. I would, instead, like to insert the tribute paid to Mr. RIVERS in the Chicago Tribune, a paper which has been one of his strongest supporters and has always admired him for his courage, determination, and fierce belief in the causes which he championed.

The article follows:

Leading the nation in mourning for L. Mendel Rivers, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, President Nixon called the South Carolina Democrat a patriot who held "unswervingly to the belief that the freedom that exists in the modern world is inextricably tied to the military strength of the United States." He was a friend, said Mr. Nixon, upon whom he could always rely "in times of great difficulty."

These were no routine words of acknowledgment for a departed member of Congress. The Republican President had no more fervent supporter of his policies in Viet Nam than the powerful committee chairman who died Monday of a heart attack. Nor did the military establishment have any greater admirer in the House.

From the moment he entered Congress, in 1941, Rivers fought for American supremacy in arms. He fought as hard for nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers for the Navy—his favorite service—as he did for modern weapons systems for the Army and Air Force. His was the voice heard most clearly in support of America's Safeguard antiballistic missile system.

If the United States has fallen behind the Soviet Union in the nuclear arms race, as many military experts argue, it is not thru any lack of effort by Rep. Rivers. In fact, he more than any other single member of Congress is generally credited with giving the United States as much defense as it now has.

As President Nixon phrased it, Rivers was important to the security of this nation because he believed freedom was inextricably tied to American military strength. Fortunately for the interests of national defense, Rivers' committee mantle is expected to fall on the next senior Democratic member, F. Edward Hébert, of Louisiana, an equally strong supporter of the military and American servicemen.

ADDRESS BY HON. DOMINICK V. DANIELS

OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Speaker, it was with a great personal sadness that I learned of the death of our distinguished colleague from South Carolina, the Honorable Mendel Rivers. His loss will not only be felt in his congressional district or home State, but throughout the entire country.

The late chairman of the Armed Services Committee was truly an

American, a patriot dedicated to his country, and an outstanding statesman. For the past 30 years, MENDEL RIVERS has guided this country's national security with a determination and loyalty unsurpassed by few men in the history of America. In Chairman RIVERS, every soldier, sailor, and airman found a friend and champion. He has consistently led the fight in support of our men in the armed services and has never let them down.

Mr. Speaker, these past few years have been troublesome times. We have heard our military force and national defense goals challenged and criticized mercilessly and continuously. Throughout all of the turmoil MENDEL RIVERS stood strong and unswerving in his principles and would not be swayed by the attacks against his beliefs. To paraphrase the words of the great Winston Churchill, MENDEL RIVERS would not give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense.

I will miss the wit and unique personality of Chairman RIVERS, as will all of us in the House of Representatives. We have lost an extremely remarkable and capable man.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN C. KLUCZYNSKI

OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing grief at the passing of my friend, the Honorable MENDEL RIVERS, a committee chairman respected by his fellow Members of this House, esteemed by his constituents, and beloved by those on active duty in our military services, who called him "the big boss" as a title of affection.

His constituents' esteem for him was based partly on his solid achievements in their behalf. He saw to it that his First Congressional District of South Carolina had defense production payrolls for its people and defense installations within its boundaries. Some of these were the Charleston Army Depot, the Charleston Naval Station, the Charleston Shipyard, the Charleston Naval Hospital, the Beaufort Naval Hospital, the Charleston Naval Supply Center, the Charleston

Naval Weapons Station, the Charleston Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Training Center, the Charleston Polaris Missile Facility—Atlantic—the Marine Air Station at Beaufort, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, the Charleston Air Force Base, and the Headquarters of the 6th Naval District.

The men and women of our Armed Forces, who regarded him as their special protector, did not base their loyalty on mere hearsay. They knew directly that it was he who had sought pay raises for them at the times they were left out while sizable increases were being voted for bureaucrats busily keeping the home fires burning. Chairman RIVERS once added a billion-dollar authorization to the budget for a military pay raise. He believed that it was not possible to do enough for those who serve in the Armed Forces. Those who serve in the Armed Forces thus had good grounds for the friendship that they felt for him.

He was on a first-name basis with most of the people in his congressional district. They were his pals long before he could do anything about getting defense payrolls into his district. They will remember him fondly and so will we. Mrs. Kluczynski joins me in extending deepest sympathy to his beloved wife, and her family at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the Extensions of Remarks an editorial which appeared in the Chicago Tribune of December 30, 1970, entitled L. MENDEL RIVERS:

L. MENDEL RIVERS

Leading the nation in mourning for L. MENDEL RIVERS, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, President Nixon called the South Carolina Democrat a patriot who held "unswervingly to the belief that the freedom that exists in the modern world is inextricably tied to the military strength of the United States." He was a friend, said Mr. Nixon, upon whom he could always rely in "times of great difficulty."

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ADDRESS BY HON. BOB WILSON

OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying tribute today to a departed friend who can never be replaced.

While I mourn the passing of a dear and admired friend, Mendel Rivers' death is more than a personal loss. His leadership touched the hearts of hundreds of thousands of individuals in and out of the military service. This is truly a national loss of the foremost champion of a vigorous armed services and a strong America. Mendel Rivers was one of the most devoted advocates of the philosophy expressed by George Washington.

If we are to have peace, it must be known that we are always prepared for war.

Mendel Rivers has been called a superhawk—but I would rather see him classified as an eagle, perhaps a supereagle. His vision was better than ours; his vantage point as chairman gave him the ability to see through the smoke screens and false maneuvers of those who would tear down our military strength.

He was truly a great patriot and a warm and understanding individual. My life is better for having been close to Mendel. My deepest affection and condolences are offered today to Mendel's beloved wife Margaret and their family.

ADDRESS BY HON. ROBERT G. STEPHENS, JR.

OF GEORGIA

Mr. Speaker, MENDEL RIVERS was my friend. I always believed he liked me and I have been deeply appreciative of this because it is a source of confidence to have someone you admire and respect to show they like you.

MENDEL was a southerner with all the pride and love of that heritage. Even so, his first concern was the United States of America. He was a stanch patriot and advocate of a powerful America. The carping and criticism of lesser people left him unshaken in his advocacy of peace through the power of a strong Christian nation. But even with all his responsibilities for the defense of America, he was ever a willing servant of his colleagues in the House who, like me, went to him for help.

For 10 years I watched him and I listened to him. I observed him on the floor in debate, in the cloak room in conversation, at social engagements, at the weekly House prayer breakfasts, on veterans programs, at political gatherings, at the Navy Supply Corps School in my district, at Fort Gordon in my district, at the Georgia Veterans Nursing Home in my district, at the dedication of his Veterans' Administration hospital in Charleston, at the Masters Tournament in my district, at the home of his predecessor and preceptor, Congressman Carl Vinson, and at a dinner in my behalf where he was the featured speaker.

At no time under any of these many circumstances did MENDEL ever fail to show his great intellectual abilities, his knowledge, wisdom, courage, humor, and genuine kindness for his fellow man.

Someone will take his place but no one will replace him. I mourn for my friend MENDEL RIVERS.

ADDRESS BY HON. GEORGE W. ANDREWS

OF ALABAMA

Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of my long-time colleague and dear friend, LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS.

He battled a failing heart as he had battled in this very Chamber time and time again for a strong national defense. While he lost this final battle with heart disease, he seldom lost in Congress.

MENDEL was one of the first people I met when I came to Washington in 1944. It was the beginning of a long friendship, filled with mutual admiration and respect.

The people of South Carolina's First Congressional District had the wisdom to send MENDEL RIVERS to Washington for 15 consecutive terms. For that we who were his colleagues and all Americans can be truly thankful.

For here was a giant of a man, if ever one sat in the House of Representatives. He was a skillful legislator, a powerful chairman of the Armed Services Committee, a tireless worker who put in long workdays, and an orator with few equals.

MENDEL RIVERS was dedicated to keeping the United States strong militarily so that we would always act from a position of strength in time of war or during periods of negotiation. Every sailor, soldier, and airman knew they would be heard, and most eloquently, in the House of Representatives through the distinguished South Carolinian and great American we mourn today.

MENDEL RIVERS talked tough to Hanoi, and he was right. He believed that our very survival depends on maintaining a strong national defense posture—and he was right. He was a man of fearless conviction and unquestioned integrity. He fought for what he believed in and retreated from nothing and no one.

Yes, surely this body and this Nation has lost a great man. We cannot replace a MENDEL RIVERS. We can only carry on the spirit of dedicated patriotism that he exhibited throughout his long and very distinguished career.

While MENDEL was sometimes tough, he was also a kind and gentle person. His compassion was well known to those who knew him, and particularly to those South Carolinians whom he represented for 30 years.

I shall miss MENDEL RIVERS, and greatly so. It is hard for me to imagine beginning the 92d Congress without him. It is hard to imagine the House of Representatives without him. His loss will be sorely felt by all.

Mrs. Andrews and I extend our deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to his sweet wife, Margaret, and his three fine children.

ADDRESS BY HON. TOM BEVILL

OF ALABAMA

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 28, 1970, death claimed one of the great American patriots of all time. L. MENDEL RIVERS fervently believed that no price was too great to pay for the protection of the United States.

Military preparedness was his watchword, the Armed Forces his life. He was often considered the best friend of the Armed Forces on Capitol Hill and he did nothing to refute this charge.

L. MENDEL RIVERS was a controversial man. The feelings of his colleagues in the House of Representatives ran the gamut of emotions; but no one ever questioned the sincerity of his beliefs, nor his dedication to his country.

L. MENDEL RIVERS will be sorely missed in the House of Representatives in his role as leading advocate for military preparedness for the United States. His greatest legacy to his country was his dedication to the principle that America must remain a free and democratic nation.

I extend my deepst sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and the family.

ADDRESS BY HON. NICK GALIFIANAKIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my tribute to those of others who have taken this week to mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, Chairman L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina.

The House of Representatives is diminished as an institution by the death of Chairman RIVERS. I am sure that it will never be the same again. Chairman RIVERS brought with him a fire, a sense of authority to debate which few others are capable of achieving.

Whether or not you agreed with the chairman on a particular question, it was always a lesson and a pleasure to hear him in this Chamber. For me, some of the most instructive hours of the past 4 years were spent in listening to Chairman RIVERS on the House floor.

There can be no doubt about the spirit and the confidence of MENDEL RIVERS. It began when he was young. I remember an occasion last fall, shortly before Thanksgiving, when he told me about a decision he once made to change jobs. It happened several years before his election to Congress.

Young MENDEL asked his employer—the one he had decided to leave—whether he would write a letter of recommendation for him. And to his surprise, as the chairman described the scene to me, his boss told him to draft the letter himself and that he would sign whatever young MENDEL thought was appropriate.

Well, the chairman said he labored over that letter for nearly a day. He polished it. And he included every conceivable detail about his work for the company—apparently all of it favorable.

When the employer read the letter before signing it, he told the chairman, "I can't let you leave. I never realized before how valuable you are to this company." And as an inducement to stay, he offered the chairman a large raise.

That was the spirit of MENDEL RIVERS. He had the confidence which comes from total dedication to a job. It could never be said that the chairman was unprepared for debate. Nor could anyone say that he gave less than a full effort on the House floor in fighting for defense legislation.

MENDEL RIVERS was as ready to take up the cause of a buck private as of an admiral. If a serviceman had a grievance, no matter what his rank, he had an audience in the Committee on Armed Services.

There was another side to the chairman, a side which tends to be overlooked because of his stature in the area of national defense. Chairman RIVERS had interests and concerns which ranged far beyond the military. In this session alone, he had introduced a compassionate bill to increase disability benefits for the blind. He had sponsored a bill to establish a national student congress as a forum for the young in America. He had lent weight to the bill to reform the postal service. And he introduced a bill to protect animals from inhumane treatment in interstate commerce.

I hope these bills will be regarded as his successes along with his enduring work in national defense.

The dedication and the fervor of MENDEL RIVERS should be a model for the House of Representatives. His patriotism, his desire

to keep America preeminent in world affairs, and his concern for the members of the Armed Services are worthy of study by us all.

I deeply regret the death of Chairman RIVERS. To his wife and children, I extend all sympathy. It was an honor to have known him.

ADDRESS BY HON. JIM WRIGHT

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of L. MENDEL RIVERS, America loses one of its foremost patriots, civil government loses one of its most distinguished public servants, this House loses one of its most beloved Members, and the millions of anonymous young men who make up the armed services of our Nation lose one of the best and most devoted friends a serviceman ever had.

For 16 years of my service here in Congress, MENDEL RIVERS has been a truly towering figure. His courtly manner, his natural and unselfconscious flamboyance, his impelling oratory and his genuine gifts for friendship seemed almost as much a part of these Halls as the mace, the microphones, and the Speaker's dais.

For all of his often brilliant and sometimes impassioned advocacy, MENDEL RIVERS was at heart a man of reason. His keen and incisive mind often burned through the dross of peripheral argumentation to lay bare the essential heart of the matter. Frequently in our debates he lighted the torch which showed the way to a reasoned solution.

Yet he had the capacity to believe, and this is a precious ingredient in an age of cynicism. He will be missed sorely. But as long as Congress is served by men who served with MENDEL RIVERS, his spirit still will live among us. Like many in this Chamber, I have lost a friend. But enduring are the lessons that I learned from him. And all those who knew him and loved him can take comfort in the knowledge that his memory will endure.

ADDRESS BY HON. JACK BRINKLEY

OF GEORGIA

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my friend from South Carolina (Mr. McMillan) in lamenting the sad loss of our colleague, L. MENDEL

RIVERS. The love for him was never so evident as at the pre-Christmas prayer meeting held for him in the Chapel here at the Capitol. The respect for him and for his ability was never more evident than has been shown here today in these stirring addresses in this hallowed House Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, in behalf of my mother, a native South Carolinian, and in behalf of all of my family, I express sincere and genuine sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and the children. May they know that our thoughts and prayers are with them and may they know that all of us deeply share their sense of loss, for truly this is a national mourning.

ADDRESS BY HON. WILLIAM A. STEIGER

OF WISCONSIN

Mr. Speaker, I was saddened by news of the death of Chairman RIVERS.

Surely no Member of this body can but pause today and join with the many who are paying tribute to a distinguished and able colleague. MENDEL RIVERS served this Nation and defended the Armed Forces. He led when it was needed. He fought his battles with wit and vigor and he worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents.

Congress has lost a man of stature and grace. Mrs. Steiger joins me in extending our sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and her family.

ADDRESS BY HON. F. EDWARD HÉBERT

OF LOUISIANA

Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the loss of my dear, personal friend L. MENDEL RIVERS, I recall the words spoken by Vice Adm. H. G. Rickover at the keel laying of the nuclear-powered guided missile frigate *South Carolina* at Newport News on December 1 of this year.

I want to insert these words in the Record at one point to demonstrate the feeling and admiration one great American had for another.

MENDEL RIVERS will never be forgotten by those of us who knew him and loved him and by the countless thousands he helped through the years.

Admiral Rickover's remarks follow:

It is an ungrateful task to try to sum up a man's character in a few words, but in the case of MENDEL RIVERS much will have been said when I have stated that he is an American and a patriot, because he is one as much as the other, and he is both intensely.

I find it hard to put into words all that I have learned to admire in him. Many men have entered our Congress. The conventional descriptions—ambition, public service, chance, social ardor, eagerness for power—none of these seem satisfactorily applicable to MENDEL RIVERS.

There is no use trying to explain him by reducing a versatile man to one or two main talents. He cannot be judged in the way some people judge an eagle by noting how he walks on the ground. An eagle must be judged by its majestic flight into the sky.

He has been obliged to make his own way by his own abilities and enterprise, but the advantages in intelligence and ambition were given him by his parents. He has used these well and has agumented them by his own ability and ambition. No smooth path of wealth or patronage was offered to him. Whatever power he has acquired has been grudingly given. He has had to fight every mile of his road through life; nothing came easily to him, not even oratory in which he excels.

He is one of the great men of our Congress. He is dedicated to peace, but aware of the awesome responsibility our Nation bears in defense of our freedom. Where our national security is involved he is brave, resolute, stubborn. His legislative acts are heroic; they speak of struggle and triumph; they reflect his pragmatic ability.

No man possesses in so high a degree as he the peculiar awareness of military realities. His efforts in behalf of American security are tireless. He has a marvelous gift for stepping beyond the appearance of things, going beyond it, and penetrating to the very essence of the matter.

He speaks as a man of the people—a man for whom the deepest spiritual truth is approachable only through the heart and can be grasped only when embodied in the realities of this world. He does not believe that being serious means going about with a long face. He has always held calmness to be a form of virtue; it is in many cases an extremely difficult form of courage.

He is one of the most unintimidable men in the United States. He knows that a good leader is doing his job when half the people are following him and half are chasing him.

He has an old-fashioned and unqualified love for the United States. This has given him a sense of dedication, responsibility, and purpose. He has the fortitude to stand up to the illegitimate and illegal activity of a tiny minority bent on tearing down every institution we have built and which we cherish.

He believes in fulfilling what you are able to fulfill, rather than running after what you will never achieve; in striving to be as complete human beings as possible. That will give us trouble enough.

He believes in the God-given genius of certain individuals, and he values a society that makes their existence possible. He understands the chasm between men with knowledge who lack power and men with power who lack knowledge; men who are instructed but not educated; assimilative, but incapable of real thought; men who do not want to confuse the ideal with the real; and intelligent idlers who always set their sights high in order to alibi their idleness and demonstrate their intelligence.

He does not agree with many of the pseudo-intellectuals who are drowning in their own words and suffocating in their own documents. Many of them are as ignorant as swans. He knows that we must abandon the prevalent belief in the superior wisdom of the ignorant.

He knows that some students of society and politics among our intellectuals have little contact with life as it is actually lived by most men; that they are more lucid as critics of existing society than as visionaries of a better one; that some of them seem to experience a vicarious pleasure in discrediting everything American; that in their seclusion they are constantly tempted to devise political constructions rooted firmly in midair—in which governments and political authority are replaced by communes of free and equal individuals; in which society exists without repression, and domestic policies require no sanctions; a society in which diplomats always tell the truth and a foreign policy is pursued in which the wolf lies down with the lamb, and the leopard with the kid.

Mendel Rivers is aware that without a knowledge of history, we are left with nothing but baseless abstractions with which to compare ourselves; that we then judge the present by the standards of a mythical trouble-free dream world where all mankind is at peace. He believes that in spite of the recent triumphs of science, men haven't changed much, and in consequence we must still try to learn from history.

He knows that a person who is often praised must set stricter standards on himself. He holds a number of beliefs that have been repudiated by the liveliest intellects of our time. He believes that order is better than chaos, creation better than destruction. He prefers gentleness to violence, forgiveness to vengeance. He believes in courtesy, the ritual by which we avoid hurting other people's feelings. He thinks that knowledge is preferable to ignorance; human sympathy more valuable than ideology.

His effort is sincere and profoundly human, it shatters old servitudes, overthrows prejudices and idols, and rises little by little toward the light. He lacks any capacity for intrigue; he is innocent and straightforward.

He knows that no country has departed from its basic principles so much, in so short a time and without realizing it, as has the United States; that what we need is simplicity and what we can do without is romanticism.

He understands that if what is needful is to be done, we cannot depend on illusions, especially of an impossible good. A calamity can be brought about by persons of great good will. Too many such persons have set themselves up in the "grievance business." Their job is to find things that are wrong; then attempt to right them. If their efforts only make matters worse, they find something else wrong.

Mr. RIVERS knows that the last war has been forgotten, erased from the collective American memory—the most devastating commentary history can render is to be forgotten because no one wants to remember.

He has named, numbered, and made perceptible, even to those who disagree with him, all the national verities that animate and sustain us, and that breathe in our blood.

He does his duty as if he were going to live forever, and casts his plans way ahead. He feels responsible without time limitation; the consideration whether he may or may not be around to see the results never enters his thoughts.

The day will come when this man, one of our great legislators and a prophetic thinker, will be recognized at his true value.

ADDRESS BY HON. GEORGE A. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Speaker, the passing of our colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS, creates a great vacuum in this Chamber, for he was that type of legislator who gave himself vitally and totally to the legislative proceedings of the House of Representatives.

As he was a competent legislator, so was he a remarkable personality, gaining the respect of all with whom he associated.

I shall feel his absence in a dual capacity, not only in this Chamber but at our Thursday morning prayer breakfasts. He was a regular attendant at these meetings.

MENDEL had a deep love for his country, and everyone would quickly agree that the term "patriot" had accurate application to him.

He also had deep convictions, and while an individual might not always have agreed with his view on things, he never had any doubts as to where he stood.

His congressional district has lost an able Representative, this House of Representatives has lost a diligent legislator, and this country has lost a real patriot. But while he is gone from our midst, he leaves us with the memory of his ardent sincerity, his deep devotion to duty, and his great love of America.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN M. MURPHY

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, during 30 years in Congress, the last 5 as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, my friend and colleague L. MENDEL RIVERS rightly earned the title of patriot on whom the Nation could always depend. His death was greeted with sorrow by the powerful and the poor, by friend and foe alike. He ran the powerful Armed Services Committee the way a general runs his command—as a fearless advocate of a strong America. Despite what some called his shot-from-the-hip rhetoric, he was, in fact, a gentleman, loquacious, and quick to smile. He was a friend to me and helpful colleague whose kindnesses I shall never forget. William Greider, in the Washington Post, captures the flavor of this colorful and controversial man who became the champion of our GI's. Under the leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I, therefore, include Mr. Greider's tribute to our departed colleague:

L. MENDEL RIVERS DIES; CHAMPION OF MILITARY

(By William Greider)

LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS, congressional godfather to the military, died early yesterday, the flamboyant champion of the lowliest GIs and of the mightiest defense contractors.

His body was flown in an Air Force jet from Birmingham, Ala., to Charleston, S.C., where his funeral will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday at Grace Episcopal Church. He will be buried at St. Stephen, S.C., near the graves of his parents.

Rep. RIVERS was 65 years old and at the pinnacle of his authority as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, where he stood for superior military strength as America's best security for a peaceful future.

Yet, in the midst of a troubling war and deep domestic strife, the South Carolina congressman also came to be a living symbol of "the military-industrial complex"—that mixture of patriotism and pork-barrel politics which seems ever in quest of larger defense budgets.

He will be best remembered, probably, as a congressional figure with his own flavorful style, the flowing white hair, the tart tongue, the occasional demands for a warrior's vengeance, the single-mindedness which seemed courageous to his friends, dictatorial and dangerous to his opponents.

"You are the only crowd who must die," RIVERS told an audience of soldiers once. "You haven't done a thing for me but save me in four world

wars . . . Of course, you have enemies—not just in Hanoi, you got enemies in Washington."

President Nixon led the national tributes to the congressman, who died 17 days after undergoing open-heart surgery at the University of Alabama hospital.

"I have lost a friend upon whom I could rely in times of great difficulty," the President said. "South Carolina has lost one of the most distinguished men in her history and America has lost a patriot."

Three months ago, when he was shepherding the massive military-procurement bill through the House, RIVERS gravely warned his colleagues again of the Soviet threat and his fear that the U.S. "seems hell-bent on national suicide" with its failure to develop new armaments.

Yet the powerful Congressman pleaded also with his critics not to dismiss his warning "as the shrill cries of a hawk who is suffering the agonies of reduced expenditures".

USED TO BEING HEEDED

In Congress, despite the wave of anti-Pentagon sentiment in the last three years, RIVERS was used to being heeded during his career, whether he was pushing pay raises for the troops or a new cargo transport for the Air Force or a vast shipbuilding program for the Navy or a government subsidy to help a private company sell jet planes to other nations.

In the military, he was continuously applauded and honored. Just a few weeks before his death, grateful GIs in Vietnam sent him a hat with six stars on it, inscribed in gold to "the big boss." They were thanking RIVERS for his success in engineering special reduced air fares so many of them could fly home for Christmas.

The armed services thanked him, also, by delivering to his congressional district and his hometown of Charleston, S.C., a remarkable array of defense installations—air bases, supply depots, hospitals, shipyards, missile facilities and others, not to menton the defense contractors who opened plants there.

HONORS IN CHARLESTON

In Charleston, they dedicated a bust of the congressman on Rivers Avenue and named a suburban subdivision "MenRiv Park." In Vietnam, the main thoroughfare at the Army base outside Pleiku is Mendel Rivers Parkway.

To RIVERS' critics, his nine-county First District was one of the grossest examples of how politicians and Pentagon planners scratch one another's backs—more ships, more planes, more contracts and, in return, more goodies for the folks back home.

To friends and admirers, RIVERS' fortification of Charleston was a subject for public banter. When the D.C. Chapter of the Air Force Association honored the congressman at an award luncheon this year, Vice President Spiro Agnew offered this tongue-in-cheek appraisal:

"I would like to lay to rest the ugly, vicious, dastardly rumor that he is trying to move the Pentagon piecemeal to South Carolina . . . I have had it clearly explained to me that the military facilities so evident in that area

are a testament of MENDEL RIVERS' unselfish willingness to allow his own First District of South Carolina to accept, in the national interest, military installations which just had to be put someplace . . .

"Even when it looked like Charleston might sink into the sea from the burden, MENDEL RIVERS' patriotic ressponse was, 'I regret that I have but one congressional district to give my country to—I mean to give to my country.' "

WIT UNMATCHABLE

But no one could match the congressman's own pungent wit, when he twitted opponents in public oratory. During the 1960s, when RIVERS held running skirmishes with the civilian managers in the Pentagon, he broke up military audiences with this description of McNamara's "whiz kids":

"The only powder those people have ever smelled is talcum powder. The only war they have been in is the BOOD-war."

But sometimes the humor was replaced by a martial note of vengeance. RIVERS proposed a nuclear ultimatum to North Korea two years ago unless the adversary pomptly returned the USS Pueblo and her crew. "I'd make positive that at least one of her cities would disappear from the face of the earth," he said.

ONLY ONE ANSWER

His strategy for Vietnam was equally blunt. "Words are fruitless diplomatic notes are useless," he thundered on one occasion. "There can be only one answer for America—retaliation, retaliation, retaliation. They say 'Quit the bombing.' I say: 'Bomb.' "

RIVERS never served in uniform himself, but he looked the part of the elder warrior. On the House floor or presiding on the dais of his committee chamber, he was ramrod erect with a flowing crown of snow-white hair. When a Senate critic referred to him as "Julius Caesar," RIVERS seemed flattered by the comparison.

In his manner of speaking, RIVERS displayed that special blend peculiar to the best politicians of the South—a graceful command of the language, but punctuated with crude thunder, like the warm flavor of good bourbon going down, followed by the husky kick.

He was chairman of the House committee for six years and he drew his power from serving the vast array of people and interests who depend upon its legislative products—the soldiers, the contractors, the Pentagon strategists.

But RIVERS reached his position of power simply by staying in Congress—surviving faithfully for 25 year suntil his chairman, former Rep. Carl Vinson, of Georgia decided to retire in 1964 at the age of 81.

RIVERS was born in Gumville, S.C., near a place called Hell Hole Swamp, in the low country of the Palmetto State's coastal plain. His father farmed and ran a turpentine-still and died when MENDEL was eight years old. His mother lost the family place and moved her six children to North Charleston where she took in boarders.

RIVERS grew up, determined by the experience, to be a lawyer. He worked in a grocery store, delivered newspapers by pony-back, played outfield for a semi-pro team.

TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

He attended the College of Charleston and law school at the University of South Carolina just long enough to pass the bar exam in 1932. After two terms in the South Carolina legislature, he came to Washington for four years as a special attorney in the Justice Department.

When he married Charleston debutante Margaret Middleton, she noted immediately that he was destined for a political future.

At the wedding, she recalled years later, RIVERS turned from the altar and worked his way up the church aisle, shaking hands and greeting folks.

FEW OPPONENTS

In 1940, against the advice of older, more influential politicians, RIVERS ran for Congress. His campaign was styled against the "the Charleston crowd" and won with the heavy support from the rural counties in the district. He never had serious opposition after that. In all but two or three elections, he didn't even have opponents.

When RIVERS entered the 77th Congress as a freshman, he was appointed to the Naval Affairs Committee. Vinson of Georgia was chairman. At war's end, the defense realignment made it the Armed Services Committee and through the years, RIVERS moved gradually up the seniority ladder without any spectacular events along the way.

WON A NICKNAME

Indeed, in his early congressional days, RIVERS won the nickname of "Oleo" RIVERS for his colorful and successful campaign to repeal the federal tax on oleomargarine (a product manufactured from cottonseed and soybean oils native to his district).

"Butter will kill you deader than Job's turkey," RIVERS once warned his fellow congressmen, "but eat a little margarine and you will look like a million dollars."

When Vinson retired and RIVERS became chairman in 1965, he introduced a more combative style to the committee's disputes with the Pentagon—particularly the management of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, RIVERS used to remind audiences that McNamara's middle name is "Strange."

The congressman listened to the generals and admirals who found their counsel unheeded by their Pentagon boss and he fought many of their battles for them, legislating new weaponry which McNamara didn't want or refused to employ.

On his committee dais, surrounded by flags and battle ribbons, RIVERS had the constitutional language inscribed on a walnut plaque:

"The Congress shall have power . . . To raise and support Armies . . . provide and maintain a Navy . . . and make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces."

CARBINE OVER DOOR

The chairman frequently reminded the executive branch of that congressional mandate. Indeed, he was accorded the trappings of a military leader,

the award plaques and pictures of admirals and generals on his office walls, his frequent inspection junkets to overseas bases, the AK–47 carbine over his door, captured from the Communists in Vietnam.

Each year, his Capitol Hill luncheon, featuring Carolina quail and Charleston shecrab soup, brought together the diverse elements of the "military-industrial complex" from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to contractors to fellow defense-minded congressmen.

Over the years, he pushed very hard to double presidential proposals for military pay raises, usually successfully. He also tried to enact a congressional veto over military base-closings—and failed.

SOUGHT FLEET OVERHAUL

He was in the forefront of the congressional pressure to get the Navy into nuclear-powered vessels, particularly submarines. At his death, his current crusade was a campaign to overhaul the entire fleet—most of which, he insisted, was dangerously obsolete or in disrepair.

In the air, he fought through the 1960s for the air transport capability of the C–141s and, more recently, the controversial C–5–A.

His most remarkable personal victory, in recent years, was his lobbying to sell Congress—and the Air Force—on a government subsidy to help produce an international fighter plane made by American industry which could be given or sold to U.S. allies. This session, he won, and the first contracts have been awarded on the $1.1 billion program.

LITTLE DISSENT

In all of this, the chairman found little dissent among his commitee members, partly because he dealt swiftly with those junior members who strayed from his line of priorities. One New York congressman found himself passed over a subcommittee chairmanship because he was a member of the "fearless five" which often opposed RIVERS in committee sessions.

RIVERS himself once summed up the congenial atmosphere over which he presided: "We get along just fine. There aren't more than five or six troublesome fellows on a committee of 40. I call that a pretty good average. If I can't meet that, God help MENDEL RIVERS."

ADDRESS BY HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in mourning the passing of the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS.

He was a man of deep conviction and unswerving loyalty to country. His zealous commitment to cause endeared him to his constituents whom he served devotedly for three decades.

Even those who may have disagreed with him admired MENDEL for his courage and strength of convictions and he undoubtedly has left a distinguished mark in the annals of our Nation's history.

While there is little that one can say to ease his family's sorrow, I know that they can take consolation in his unstinting dedication as a public servant.

I knew MENDEL as a warm friend and I extend to his widow and family my deepest sympathy, and I hope that my prayers will in some way help them bear the heavy burden of their loss.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN E. HUNT

OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Speaker, the untimely demise of the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina has left this body in a state of shock. It should likewise be noted that perhaps the greatest impact of all was upon his family, to whom I now offer my sincere condolences and sympathy. MENDEL RIVERS was truly the epitome of a good husband, excellent statesman, and an overall man of good will. His courage in defense of this great Nation shall long be remembered for in my humble estimation it has no parallel.

As chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee MENDEL RIVERS gave an outstanding performance of his love for the serviceman. Today it is quite fashionable in many quarters to defile the character and lives of men and women in our armed services because they forget that without a good defense every nation will fall. MENDEL RIVERS made sure during his occupancy of the chairman's seat that this could never happen. His defense of the serviceman was consistent and without equivocation. He shall be missed by all the men and women who wear a uniform in defense of this country.

He was my friend and I shall truly miss him. I know that God will be merciful and he will look down upon us from his new home.

ADDRESS BY HON. ROY A. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. Speaker, I share the sorrow occasioned by the death of our colleague, MENDEL RIVERS. Our Nation has lost a great citizen. American servicemen lost their No. 1 supporter, and I have lost a valuable friend.

The word most frequently used in referring to MENDEL RIVERS has been the word "patriot." He was patriotic and held a deep concern for our country's security and for the welfare of each individual wearing this country's uniform. He was firm in his determination that the military posture of the United States should never be compromised. So often we heard MENDEL RIVERS join Speaker John McCormack in expressing love for this country and its institutions and faith in its future. He was proud to be an American citizen and to use his great influence and committee chairmanship to keep America strong.

MENDEL RIVERS said what he thought, and he believed what he said. He was as intellectually honest as any person that I have ever known. He held strong convictions and had the courage to tell all people where he stood on issues.

MENDEL RIVERS was colorful and controversial, but those who knew him personally and worked with him on day-by-day tasks know that he was sincere and dedicated and kind and warm and considerate.

He took problems seriously and was always willing to go out of his way to do a favor for a congressional colleague, for a friend, for a constituent, for a fellow citizen.

The people of South Carolina and the Nation have suffered a great loss. I share in their grief.

ADDRESS BY HON. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI

OF WISCONSIN

Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my voice to those who have spoken so eloquently and so well on our colleague, the Honorable L. MENDEL

RIVERS, of South Carolina, whose recent, unfortunate passing has been such a sorrow to us all.

Although I did not always agree with Chairman RIVERS, I never ceased to respect his courage, his determination, and his dedicated services to principles he believed were right.

No better gage of this outstanding Member of the House of Representatives could be found than his deep and sincere concern over the plight of our American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia.

Last April, Chairman RIVERS testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on National Security Policy and Scientific Developments, of which I am chairman, during hearings on the POW issue.

At that time he expressed the belief that no problem facing the United States was greater than that of obtaining humane treatment and ultimate release of U.S. prisoners of war in Southeast Asia.

In his testimony he said:

> These men have earned the full sympathy, understanding and support of every man, woman and child in this country and, for that matter, in every free country in the world. Their plight and the plight of their families will be resolved only if we in the Congress continue to call the attention of the world to the outrageous and inhumane treatment these men are receiving.

This testimony by Chairman RIVERS and his subsequent statements on the subject did much to keep the problems of our prisoners squarely before the Congress, the people of our Nation and the world.

Moreover, as one of the last official acts he performed in this body, Chairman RIVERS sponsored and guided through the House a resolution calling for renewed attention to the POW problem.

With the death of Chairman RIVERS, the American prisoners of war and their loved ones here at home have lost a powerful champion. I am confident, however, that he has left a spiritual legacy of that deep concern for the POW's which will cause us, his colleagues, to rededicate ourselves to that cause—a cause to which he gave so much.

ADDRESS BY HON. J. WILLIAM STANTON

OF OHIO

Mr. Speaker, the death of Chairman L. MENDEL RIVERS is a great loss to the United States of America. Our many colleagues have expressed their sympathy far more eloquently than I can. However, I would like to bring to their attention just one personal memory of the graciousness of this great patriot.

Exactly 1 year ago today, my wife and I drove to Charleston, S.C., for a couple of days of vacation. We did not know anyone in the city. The following morning, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call from Congressman MENDEL RIVERS, who had seen a congressional license plate in the parking lot of the hotel and inquired who was staying there. He not only joined me for breakfast a few minutes later, but he insisted that my wife and I spend the rest of the day as guests of the Rivers family at their home. This outstanding display of southern hospitality and charm left an indelible impression upon us.

During that day with the Rivers family, we had an opportunity to observe this fine American as a family man. His lovely wife along with his daughter and son just could not have been more gracious. It was with great reluctance that evening that we finally departed.

There was never any doubt in any of our minds that Chairman MENDEL RIVERS was a living legend. He was probably the hardest working Congressman on Capitol Hill. His knowledge of the armed services exceeded that of any of his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Peggy joins me in extending to Mrs. Rivers and their children our deepest sympathy and prayers. Chairman RIVERS will long live on in our memory because we can never forget his deep dedication to his country and the need to keep America militarily strong.

ADDRESS BY HON. WILLIAM H. AYRES

OF OHIO

Mr. Speaker, my father, a Methodist minister from the State of Virginia, early implanted in me a sense of respect and gratitude for those American patriots who steadfastly fought for those principles that enabled all of our citizens to live in freedom.

As a youth I thought that the fight had been won and that the need for patriotic men was past and that we could just sit back and enjoy the fruits of their efforts and sacrifices. I soon learned however through World War II, Korea, and the cold war that the battle for freedom and justice is never completely won but is an ever continuing process of maintaining those safeguards that would insure that the United States of America would remain in the hands of its own people.

When I came to the U.S. Congress 20 years ago, I was very concerned about the future of our country.

My fears were soon allayed as I came to know my colleagues. I found many of them possessed that same dedication and love of country that marked the American patriots of yesteryear.

MENDEL RIVERS was among the greatest of these modern patriots. He possessed the same degree of devotion to country, courage and farsightedness that distinguished our Founding Fathers. I feel that same sense of gratitude to him that I feel toward our other great patriots. I feel honored that I was privileged to serve with him and deeply mourn his passing.

I first learned to respect MENDEL RIVERS on an athletic field.

In my freshman year in the Congress I was selected to play on the Republican baseball team in our annual game with the Democratic Members. I had played both in college and with several semiprofessional teams. I felt prety cocky when I first came to bat.

As I looked over the field before me, I noticed a player in centerfield who had long white hair. Thinking that I only had to drive the ball over his head to secure a homerun, I lengthened my grip on the bat and hit the first pitch right on the nose to deep centerfield.

I did notice the white-haired centerfielder drifting back looking over his shoulder. Never anticipating that he could catch up with the ball, I put my head down and took off for what I thought would be an in-the-park homerun.

Can you imagine my embarrassment as I crossed second base to find that instead of a homerun, I had just made the third out of the inning—for the white-haired centerfielder had timed my drive perfectly and with deceptive speed had gathered it into his glove.

As I disappointedly turned toward the bench, I met MENDEL RIVERS coming in from his post in centerfield. As we jogged off the field together, I told him that I would never underestimate him again. I never did. I am glad that I learned my lesson on the athletic field rather than on the floor of the House.

I know that others will pick up the torch that he has passed on and will continue the policies that he so eloquently declared.

ADDRESS BY HON. EMANUEL CELLER

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, I cannot find it in my heart to believe that MENDEL RIVERS has passed away. For 30 years I have watched him move through the Halls of Congress, strong and sure and committed. It was more than the service to his constituency that brought MENDEL back to Congress term after term; it was also, in no small measure, the warmth of his personality, the friendliness of his greeting and the sincerity of his beliefs. This was a side of MENDEL that was absent in the national portrait placed before the people of this land. To those who knew him personally, he conveyed a zest for life, a zest which flowed over into the causes to which he had dedicated himself. It was not necessary to agree with MENDEL to stand in the warmth of his vitality.

There are few who suspected that he lived in the shadow of his ailment, because he, himself, cast no shadow of apprehension nor gloom. This was his private matter and he sought no pity therefor.

To his wife and family, I extend my very deepest sympathy.

ADDRESS BY HON. F. BRADFORD MORSE

OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Representative L. MENDEL RIVERS has deeply affected all of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. We have lost one of the most dedicated and capable citizens that I have ever known.

A Member of this body for over 30 years, and since 1964, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, MENDEL RIVERS worked with sincere conviction and deep devotion for the welfare of our Nation. There has rarely been a Member of this body who has worked with such diligence for his country and for his district.

He was a skillful student of government and an able legislator. In a time when patriotism may be looked upon by some as old fashioned, MENDEL RIVERS was a genuine patriot and a true leader in the House of Representatives.

Although we often differed in our views, I have always had the most profound respect for his abilities and his fairness. His sudden death will leave a void in this Chamber that will be difficult to fill.

We have lost a colleague of unique distinction and outstanding attainment.

ADDRESS BY HON. ALEXANDER PIRNIE

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, it is with deepest sorrow that we note the passing of our beloved colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS. As a member of the Armed Services Committee which he has led with such vigor and objectivity, I am aware of his great contributions to the security of this country and the welfare of those who wear its uniform. He was dedicated to this task and gave to it all his strength and courage. He was widely respected by those with whom he served and in the ranks of the services he had a warm spot in every heart. They knew MENDEL cared and was their friend. He strengthened their morale.

During the past year there have been occasions of recognition and

appreciation at which our chairman heard and knew the gratitude we all have felt. These are precious memories for it would haunt us if these sentiments had not been expressed. Now that his work is ended, we will bless these memories and trust they will ease the sorrow of his beloved family to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

With majestic courage and sincerity of purpose he served his country well. With affectionate pride we recall his achievements and his kindly acts. He was a great chairman, a fine Congressman, and a loyal friend. We will long remember him.

ADDRESS BY HON. JAMES J. DELANEY

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the death of our beloved colleague, the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS.

My friendship with MENDEL began on the first or second day of my congressional service. He was a man with a deep sense of honor, and was always a man of his word. He had a great personal charm, and was the personification of the legendary southern gentleman.

MENDEL was a most effective and impressive debater. He pursued his arguments with force and vigor, and frequently disarmed his adversaries with sparkling humor and lines of poetry.

Chairman RIVERS was an outstanding patriot, and was passionately devoted to assuring that America's military posture was second to none. He was also deeply concerned for the welfare of our men and women in the armed services, and fought continually to improve their pay and living conditions.

MENDEL gave unstintingly to his constituency and to his Nation. He regularly went to work near dawn and stayed late at night to give his people and his country the fullest measure of his devotion, and the broadest range of his uncommon talents.

In the words of Edwin Markham:

> Here was a man to hold against the world; a man to match the mountains and the seas.

To his wife and his children, Mrs. Delaney and I extend our deepest sympathy.

ADDRESS BY HON. CHARLES H. GRIFFIN

OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. Speaker, the untimely passing of our beloved colleague leaves us all with a full measure of grief and sadness. Yet, on reflection, we can take solace in the fact that America is stronger because he lived, and we are all richer because of his service in the House.

MENDEL RIVERS loved his country beyond description, and he held dear the glorious traditions of his native State—South Carolina and her people. He was fierce in debate but delighted in helping a fellow Member of Congress. As few men do, MENDEL RIVERS became a legend in his own lifetime.

The death of this great man is a severe loss to his district and the Nation. He will be long remembered in this body and his contributions to our national security will always be appreciated by those who love liberty and who are willing to make sacrifices for freedom.

There is a lonesome place against the sky—for a giant has fallen.

ADDRESS BY HON. E. Y. BERRY

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. Speaker, with the untimely passing of L. MENDEL RIVERS. we have lost one of the grandest men who ever graced the Halls of Congress.

With his stately manner, judgment, and ability, he has earned a place in history that only a few can enjoy. He not only was a student of government and military affairs, but was a deeply religious man. He was as handsome inside as he was handsome in his personal appearance.

His passing is a great loss to the Congress of the United States and the people of the Nation.

ADDRESS BY HON. JAMES R. MANN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. Speaker, in my State of South Carolina, the name of MENDEL RIVERS has a very special meaning. To me, as well as to a host of Americans, the name of MENDEL RIVERS has a very special meaning. Although my home district is in the Piedmont region of the State of South Carolina, my constituency has always held the gentleman from the low country in high regard. He has always had our respect and admiration. Thus it was that in my initial campaign for Congress in 1968, the endorsement, assistance, and personal appearance of MENDEL RIVERS were significant in my election. It has been a high privilege to serve with him in this House and to observe the efforts that he has exerted on behalf of our beloved Nation. His passing is a particularly sad occasion for the people in South Carolina, not simply because he will no longer be there to pursue ably the interests of the State, but because all South Carolinians identified with him in his national role, and were proud to identify him as a South Carolinian.

It is well, when thinking of LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS in retrospect, to recall him through the lines of that immortal poem which he so eloquently used last year to eulogize the late Congressman Bill Bates. Not only do these lines attest to the great oratorical ability of MENDEL RIVERS, but they apply as well, albeit all too soon, to his life and leaving:

> He went down
> As when a lordly cedar, green with boughs,
> Goes down with a great shout upon the hills,
> And leaves a lonesome place against the sky.

Recent newspaper and magazine articles have attempted to catch the essence of MENDEL RIVERS, the man who so enormously influenced this House and the armed services of this country. None of them are adequate. With his frost-white hair and tall bearing, MENDEL RIVERS was, indeed, a walking recollection of that earlier Carolina statesman, John C. Calhoun. But here the identification ended, for MENDEL RIVERS was no latter-day embodiment of a dead plantation aristocracy. Although he did portray some of the best qualities of that bygone society, his sense of aristocracy was more in the vein of the Jeffersonian concept of a natural aristocracy. It sprang from

an inner excellence, not from a social label. His rise out of poverty onto the plateau of great national power was the result of enormous determination, native intelligence, hard work and cool tenaciousness.

But the great success which he achieved never alienated him from his people. There is a sign outside a small town in his district which reads "We appreciate MENDEL RIVERS." There are no military installations in that town. The sign with its simple message tells more about this man of the people than anything else which has ever been written. It tells about a man who genuinely cared for the individuals whom he served. It tells about farmers and mechanics and grocery clerks who always found the busy man willing to listen and to help whenever he could. It tells about a Congressman who would go to bat for a constituent when everyone else had turned a deaf ear. He has been heard to say, "In life, it's the small things that count." Believing this, RIVERS' heart was never very far from the plain, ordinary people whom he served.

Yes, MENDEL RIVERS was loved in his district. The lack of political opposition in his district has become a part of the RIVERS legend. Part of that can be attributed to the truth in his boast:

> If we don't have opportunity in Charleston, there ain't no cows in Texas. We got opportunity for about anybody who's got a pulse.

He was a man of his word, and the people knew it. His scrupulous honesty and integrity went unquestioned even by his severest critics. His hands remained as clean as his district became prosperous. In 1968, when he ran against a black opponent in the Democratic primary, MENDEL RIVERS picked up approximately half of the black vote, an astounding achievement for one who was supposed by so many to be a reactionary on matters of race. He was not reactionary in the least, of course, and the distinction of race was, for him, no distinction at all.

His faith and belief in the American soldier was another part of the RIVERS legend. The American fighting man has never had a better friend than LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS. He insisted that they have the best in the way of facilities and protection. There was no surer way to get his dander up than to disparage the honor of those men and women who wear our Nation's military uniforms. And they returned his admiration and respect. Recently, when he managed to obtain a substantial fare reduction for service personnel flying home for Christmas, they responded by sending him a cap with six gen-

eral's stars. One can say with some validity that MENDEL RIVERS had two constituencies, one, his congressional district, and the other, the entire military, which revered him as—one might as well say it—a Caesar, born to conquer the true enemies of the Republic.

Over the years there have been many tributes made to MENDEL RIVERS. I cannot exceed their eloquence or praise. I can only say that I deeply admired and respected him. He never wavered in his duty to his country. History will have to judge the rightness of his decisions, but, for my part, I feel that time will deal with him kindly. I am sure that his memory will live in the minds and hearts of a grateful posterity, and this, most assuredly, is the greatest tribute that can be afforded any man. I sincerely hope that his wife and family will find some measure of comfort in the admiration that so many of us feel for this truly great American. His memory will stand as a monument, symbolizing an incredible steadfastness toward achieving for America not only those things which are best, but those things which are necessary for the preservation of her freedom. If those of us who remain can emulate that same steadfastness, then that monument will help to fill the "lonesome place against the sky."

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN O. MARSH, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

Mr. Speaker, as we pay tribute to our late colleague, MENDEL RIVERS, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the special association he had with my congressional district and why his loss has a special meaning for myself and a number of constituents in the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia.

Although it was not generally known, Congressman RIVERS, at one time, owned farm property in Augusta County near Staunton. He was a frequent visitor to the Shenandoah Valley and had a great interest and knowledge of that area.

He made many friends in my congressional district and often when I would be in the Staunton area I would have constituents who knew him inquire about him and send their best.

The lasting friendships which he made in my area of the State is typical of the man and his character. During my service here, he extended to me many kindnesses and I join with others in expressing deepest sympathy to his family.

The Congress and the country have lost an outstanding leader.

ADDRESS BY HON. FRANK HORTON

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in giving tribute to our late colleague from South Carolina. He gave 30 years' service to his district and to the House of Representatives. His leadership was of great importance when the crucial issues of those three decades were being debated, and, as we all know, his interest in and concern for our military strength can be credited for the existence of a strong military establishment.

But there was a less dramatic aspect of MENDEL RIVERS' service, which, I feel, should be recognized. I refer to his efforts on behalf of the American serviceman.

Many times, Mr. Speaker, servicemen in my district have contacted my office for assistance of one sort or another. Frequently I was able to help; in some cases I was not. When these more difficult situations developed, I often contacted MENDEL RIVERS. His interest and involvement were the crucial factors in getting many cases reconsidered and unjust decisions reversed or amended.

Federal bureaucracy can be a frustrating experience for a young man with specific problems. This is especially true at the Pentagon, where the very size of its personnel system leads to errors and occasional hardship. The requests for compassionate leave or discharge or for reassignment so a soldier can live near his family—in short, the calls for help from the helpless GI—can be very compelling.

MENDEL RIVERS never showed the slightest hesitation in coming to their aid. His long record of leadership is detailed, in one instance after another, by various examples of assistance to the American fighting man. He sought not only to alleviate unnecessary hardship

but also to improve the pay, the leave, and other benefits our servicemen deserve. They have lost a real friend.

It is this high tradition of service for which I have always respected MENDEL RIVERS and for which I will remember him.

ADDRESS BY HON. WALTER FLOWERS

OF ALABAMA

Mr. Speaker, all loyal Americans mourn the death of our colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS. He was a great patriot, an untiring voice calling out for a strong America. I believe that this House will heed the echo of his words in the days and years ahead.

I know that the people of Alabama felt a close and special affection for this great man. And in their behalf and for myself and my family, I want to extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and other members of the Rivers family.

ADDRESS BY HON. WM. JENNINGS BRYAN DORN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of eulogies and editorials have been written in praise of our late beloved chairman and friend, L. MENDEL RIVERS. Typical of these expressions of respect and sorrow are the following editorials from two South Carolina papers outside the chairman's own congressional district, the Aiken (S.C.) Standard and the Greenville (S.C.) News:

[From the Aiken Standard, Dec. 31, 1970]

REPRESENTATIVE L. MENDEL RIVERS

The American in uniform has lost his best friend.

The death of United States Rep. LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS of Charleston is being felt already in faraway places around the globe, wherever an American serviceman is stationed. In the last few years, a warm affinity had devel-

oped between Mr. Rivers, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and the man in uniform.

It was not an uncommon thing for any South Carolinian far from home to get a special greeting from our men in uniform—"because that's Mendel Rivers' home state." Mr. Rivers just about acquired patron sainthood in their eyes.

"He speaks our language," they would tell you.

"He's the man who has our interest in mind, is able to do something and does it," was an oft-heard consensus.

Mr. Rivers was obsessed with a determination to keep this country's military forces strong, in the belief that this was the best way to keep the peace and keep our freedom. He was an outspoken hawk. He believed in the capacity of our military establishment, and he believed it should be used to preserve our position. He believed we should have gone all-out to achieve victory in Korea. He felt we should have mass-bombed Haiphong to destroy North Vietnam's main artery for supplies.

"Military might!" he was wont to say. "It's the only thing those people understand." He openly scorned whatever effect such positions might have had on world opinion.

Mr. Rivers rarely exposed tepid opinions. He felt control of the military establishment belonged in the hands of Congress and made his case forcefully and often. It quickly produced a highly publicized series of confrontations with the then Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. There were a number of occasions when Mr. Rivers and his committee authorized appropriations in excess of that sought by the military chiefs. Mr. Rivers would tell them plainly that they needed more, whether it was for more destroyers or more hospitals.

He was a champion of advanced military hardware. He took a keen interest in the development of the beleaguered C5 airplane. When the first one was being delivered to Charleston for duty, there was the predictable ceremony. Mr. Rivers was the principal speaker.

To the embarrassment of most persons present—but not Mr. Rivers—the giant droopy-winged airplane dropped a wheel just before it landed safely.

"That's why those planes have 28 wheels," Congressman Rivers said. "It landed safely. It didn't have to use all those wheels."

He then took the opportunity of dismissing critics:

"There are some," he acknowledged, "who would rather have seen a wing drop off. All I can say is to hell with them."

The military people, from generals to privates, admired his unflinching aggressiveness and his courage in the face of criticism that often became intense and personal. His forthrightness if not always his position, was admired by his colleagues of both political parties in the House.

A few months ago, after a bitter attack by a Washington columnist, his fellow congressmen one after another took the floor to lavish praise on him.

Mr. Rivers began his political career as an underdog. Few in Lowcountry South Carolina had given him much chance to be elected in Congress. He came through, and was returned to office 16 times in the ensuing years.

His early years in Congress were spent in the more usual chores of a young congressman: doing what he could for the people of his First Congressional District. It was often said that when it came to looking after the personal interests of his constituents there was not a better representative. He was similarly indefatigable in his efforts to bring new prosperity to a region which, at the time of his election, was still trying to extricate itself from the ravages of the Civil War. He is credited with bringing the big Air Force base to Charleston; a number of defense-related industries; bringing the Marine Air Station to Beaufort; the Veterans' Administration Hospital to Charleston, and keeping and strengthening existing posts such as the Charleston Naval Base and the Parris Island Marine Depot.

Comics and critics said that if Mr. RIVERS put another military installation at Charleston the whole area would sink into the Atlantic Ocean. On one occasion Mr. RIVERS quickly took up the challenge and said he would seek to have the Federal government drive pilings in order to reinforce the entire area so that more military installations could safely be placed there.

Usually he answered such quips straightforwardly.

"Where else," he would ask, "can you find a more deserving people, a more patriotic people, a more efficient people, a more conscientious people, a better climate and a better location?"

When the Charleston area's economy became so heavily supported with the Federal payrolls, it was whispered about that the city's economic structure was but a heartbeat away from collapse. Mr. RIVERS' heartbeat.

Mr. RIVERS' heart has now stopped beating after 65 years. The Lowcountry area's economy, while still heavily enriched with Federal money, is today quite healthy apart from it. And this pleasant condition to some degree, at least, is attributable to Mr. RIVERS' energetic stimulation of the whole economy. The South Carolina Lowcountry's economy is strong enough now to withstand changes in the military presence that likely will come in the months and years ahead. Mr. RIVERS' beloved First Congressional District—the Lowcountry of South Carolina—is much healthier now, thanks in large measure to his tireless efforts.

More than 10,000 persons had filed past his casket Tuesday at Grace Protestant Episcopal Church in Charleston. Men in work clothes, bearded youths, political luminaries, shuffling elderly people walking with assistance, white people and black people.

For the most part, they were those residents of the First Congressional District he called "my people."

They had come to say goodbye to an old and trusted friend.

He was a colorful man, an energetic representative. He was a friend to thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen from every state of the Union who knew him only by name and reputation. He was a personal friend to thousands of South Carolinians. All are saddened by his death.

All will miss the man from Hell Hole Swamp who became one of this country's most powerful men.

[From the Greenville News, Dec. 29, 1970]

Congressman Mendel Rivers

Congressman L. Mendel Rivers always did his homework well. As a result he was one of the most powerful men in Washington and was unbeatable in the First South Carolina Congressional District.

As Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Congressman Rivers was almost the absolute master of the House of Representatives on military matters. He had the respect and confidence of an overwhelming majority of his fellow legislators.

A believer in strong military forces and strong action to protect American interests, the South Carolinian was intensely disliked by the latter-day liberal establishment. But he proved more than a match for all opponents in battle after battle in the House.

A representative for more than 30 years and chairman of Armed Services for the past five, Congressman Rivers was an acknowledged expert on military affairs. He made it his business to keep in close touch with the far-flung military establishment, traveling all over the world and talking with service personnel of all ranks.

Detractors criticized what they called Representative Rivers' frequent "junkets" to military installations everywhere. But those trips kept the chairman well informed about what was going on in what he regarded as his global military constituency. No matter what happened or where militarily, Mendel Rivers knew what it was—and more important why it was.

He was respected, even revered by career enlisted personnel, because he fought constantly for better pay and better conditions for service men and women. He had the confidence of military leaders. He also had that all-important confidence of the House of Representatives and of all Presidents with whom he worked.

He was able to build and keep a coalition of House votes, composed of both Democrats and Republicans, which guaranteed passage of important military legislation. Critics could carp at Congressman Rivers, but they could not prevail against him.

The same situation obtained in his home district, which covers a wide area of lower South Carolina. No matter where he went or how often he went, Mendel Rivers kept in close touch with the people back home. He moved among them constantly, never losing the flavor of his Berkeley County Farm origin.

Because he was powerful in the military world, Congressman Rivers was able to get many military installations for South Carolina, especially in his home district. He was acknowledged as the Charleston area's chief economic asset.

In recent years nobody could touch Mendel Rivers politically. He was the choice of Democrats and Republicans, whites and blacks, throughout his district. He also was his own boss in national political affairs. Some Democrats complained because he spoke favorably of George Wallace in the 1968 presi-

dential campaign, but suggestions that he be "disciplined" by the party in Congress were laughed off.

Congresman RIVERS was a strong-willed man with an excellent intellect. He knew what he was doing, why he was doing it, and how to get it done. He had much to do with keeping this country's military guard up in the face of increasing disarmament pressure.

Because dangerous world conditions make military strength mandatory, Congressman RIVERS' death Monday was a severe loss to the nation and the free world. Already doubts are being expressed about whether the "military coalition" he built will survive his passing.

For South Carolina the loss is immense. A strong voice in national affairs has fallen silent. A powerful developer of military installations in the state has gone. The entire state, especially the Charleston area, can suffer economically and otherwise.

More important, however, the nation and the free world have lost a stalwart patriot, a giant who cannot be replaced easily or quickly.

ADDRESS BY HON. DONALD G. BROTZMAN

OF COLORADO

Mr. Speaker, I, like all of our colleagues in the House, was saddened to learn of the death of Chairman MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina.

In an age in which all too many persons downgrade patriotism, MENDEL RIVERS stood tall in the service of his country. No one of us will forget his tireless efforts as chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, his concern for the security of the Nation, and his dedication to the American servicemen who defend us.

Mrs. Brotzman joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Chairman RIVERS' family.

ADDRESS BY HON. WRIGHT PATMAN

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, the House has lost one of its most distinguished Members and the Nation has lost a great patriot in the passing of

the devoted chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS. I was privileged to serve with Chairman RIVERS throughout his three decades in the House and came to know the true greatness of this outstanding statesman and gentleman from South Carolina.

Perhaps more than any other man in our century, he realized the truth of Thomas Jefferson's warning that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and Chairman RIVERS dedicated his life to maintaining a strong national defense. He was an authority on weapons systems, and his remarkable knowledge of military matters was recognized and respected throughout the world. The House will sorely miss the wise advice and sage counsel which he was always so willing to share with his colleagues. One of his last major addresses in the House was a penetrating analysis of our defense capabilities and represents one of the finest discussions of the subject in recent years. His speeches on the floor were always immensely informative and meaningful, and they gave us the background necessary for proper consideration of vital defense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, MENDEL RIVERS will be remembered as one of that select group of patriots who did more than revere their country. He is now among those who gave a lifetime of meaningful and effective leadership to keep our Nation free and the emblems of America high in the sight of all people as a continuing beacon of hope and democracy. He had a great and abiding faith in the future of America, and in these troubled times, we would all do well to share his unshakable confidence in our Nation which is the world's strongest bastion of freedom and justice.

On this occasion, I want to join with my colleagues in extending my heartfelt sympathy to his wonderful family at this difficult and trying time.

ADDRESS BY HON. WALTER S. BARING

OF NEVADA

Mr. Speaker, I am most grieved by the passing of our colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS. He was one of the greatest American patriots to ever serve his Nation in the U.S. Congress.

Congressman RIVERS placed his country first before any other duty he undertook as an American and as a Congressman. He was a strong constitutionalist of the first order and believed in America's safety first and foremost. He fought for the preservation of the American way of life and did his utmost to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Congressman RIVERS had a steadfast and accurate stand in his positive attitude that the security of America depended on the strength of America's military system. He certainly assisted in insuring this system as the protective force under which this Nation continued to survive and thrive.

The loss of our colleague is not only a loss to the U.S. Congress and the Nation, but his passing also is a loss to the service men and women of America.

It is my hope that the tradition of a strong military posture for American defense, which Congressman RIVERS was largely responsible for establishing and battling for, will be maintained.

ADDRESS BY HON. MARIO BIAGGI

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that this country mourns the passing of one of its elder statesmen, Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS. Throughout his entire life he has been the embodiment of the American ethic, sometimes praised, sometimes condemned, but always the touchstone of quality and performance. Although I did not always agree with him, I respected his ability and leadership.

MENDEL RIVERS was a successful man. His roots reached back into the farmlands of his native Gumville, S.C., just as this Nation was founded in the agrarian life of the early settlers. His was a difficult beginning in the midst of the poverty of the great depression; but, just as the fledgling United States had its difficulties, the rigors of early life molded the man into a courageous individual who would never consider compromising what he considered to be right.

MENDEL RIVERS was a compassionate man. His life was not built with people he stepped on, but rather with those whose everlasting friendship he gained as a result of his willingness to help everyone in need. The millions of servicemen who have known him will readily

attest to that. The thousands of residents of the First District of South Carolina will acclaim his constancy over the years. And many people the world over will remember him as a friend.

MENDEL RIVERS was a patriot. His devotion to the country his life so closely paralleled was unmatched by any man in this body or in this Nation. He was unswerving in carrying out his personal commitment to keep America strong and free. He was relentless in his drive to build a better country.

No one can question MENDEL RIVERS' integrity and sense of duty. His passing will mark an end of an era.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN M. SLACK

OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. Speaker, the waning days of the 91st Congress have seen the passing of a citizen-patriot who stood tall among us in support of his convictions—Hon. L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina.

There is no need for me to reaffirm how much we will miss his presence among us. This has already been done by several score of the House membership with phrases more impressive than those at my command.

There is some sort of cosmic significance, however, in the timing of his departure. Throughout the 91st Congress the Defense Establishment of this country has been under continuous and unrelenting attack. From all sides and all directions we have witnessed a continuous orgy of howling and screaming against not only the professional military, but also the civilians of higher echelon who must shoulder the grave burden of keeping our country strong.

In the center of a hurricane of fury whipped up from coast to coast almost daily during the past 2 years, one man has stood immovably, MENDEL RIVERS, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Never before in this century has there been such a concentrated effort to seriously weaken this Nation's defenses, and never has it been so successfully resisted.

Because this one man stood as a rallying point for those who will not turn the lives and fortunes of Americans over to foreign or internationalist influences. He thought in terms of duty first, duty last,

duty always. He was determined that on the passing of his stewardship, he would not leave his country an ounce less strong than it was when he assumed his responsibility. And in this he prevailed to the advantage of this and coming generations.

It must be said therefore that if the time and arrived for him to be called away, then his passing came on a note of triumph. For all who believe that a militarily powerful America is a first prerequisite to world peace, he set the code of conduct to be followed in the future. It will be our obligation to measure up to his level of high conviction and determination.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN J. ROONEY

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, I, too, was deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS who represented South Carolina's First Congressional District here in the House of Representatives for 30 years. I know and admired the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee for most of those years and will miss him greatly. MENDEL RIVERS was a giant of a man. A man of strong convictions and a man not afraid to fight for those convictions, popular or not. He was a firm believer in a strong America and a fierce fighter of those who would weaken or destroy our country. MENDEL RIVERS was a true patriot. He was a hard-working, unique, and colorful man, always genuine, always honest. He was a man who hated hypocrisy and deceit and so always spoke and acted in a manner that left no doubt as to his beliefs. And he was always a fine gentleman. To his wife, daughters, and son I extend my deepest sympathy in their loss.

ADDRESS BY HON. BILL NICHOLS

OF ALABAMA

Mr. Speaker, MENDEL RIVERS was indeed a legend in his time and, although the proud Southern State of South Carolina claimed

MENDEL, he did not belong exclusively to that State. The people of my own State of Alabama loved MENDEL RIVERS, and in memory's eye, I go back several years ago when Chairman RIVERS, along with his close friend and our colleague, the Honorable Edward Hébert, came to Montgomery to attend the funeral of our own Governor, the late and beloved Lurleen Wallace. He came on other occasions as well—once to pay his last respects to our late colleague, the Honorable Frank Boykin; as the commissioner of the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing, he was a frequent visitor to our Alabama International Motor Speedway in Talladega, Ala. Although South Carolina's love for this great American surpassed that of most States, our esteemed chairman belonged to the Nation and the Nation has sustained a very deep loss.

Those of us privileged to serve on his committee know and appreciate the great service which Chairman RIVERS performed in his untiring efforts in behalf of maintaining a strong America. Certainly, history will record that Congress—through the initiative and leadership of Chairman RIVERS—had the foresight and wisdom and courage to strengthen the defense of this Nation.

Although I did not have the good fortune as many in this Chamber to know MENDEL RIVERS for many years, nevertheless, his dedication, duty and leadership have been an inspiration to me and I shall always be indebted to him for the sound advice he gave me as a new Member of the Congress.

I shall miss him in so many ways: his friendship; his great sense of humor, both in the cloakroom and in the committee itself when he used to say, "That's off the record." I shall miss his place at the Thursday morning prayer breakfast and the contributions he made to that very intimate group of colleagues. In times like these, it is difficult to understand why leaders like Congressman RIVERS are called and I heard this expression on many occasions both at the Washington level and following the services in Charleston, "The only explanation which I can suggest is that perhaps God needs men like MENDEL even more than we might need him in these dangerous and troublesome times." MENDEL gave so generously and so tirelessly of his time and energy and his passing is an extremely personal loss to me as well as a loss to our country.

I like to think of a poem which I once heard which we could well dedicate to the life and memory of this great American. I believe it fits his own outlook on life.

I have to live with myself, and so
I want to be fit for myself to know
I want to look myself in the eye
I do not want to stand with the setting sun
And hate myself for the things I have done
I want to go with my head erect
I want to deserve every man's respect.

ADDRESS BY HON. JAMES A. BYRNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I take this opportunity to say an official farewell to an old and dear friend and a leader of this distinguished body—L. MENDEL RIVERS.

There is no question that MENDEL RIVERS was a controversial person. I freely note that there were many times during the 18 years we served together on the Armed Services Committee that we disagreed. Other times we were in agreement. But I can state without equivocation that in all the years I knew MENDEL RIVERS, I never met a single Member of this House who did not admire him for his zeal and directness of action.

One could certainly say about MENDEL RIVERS that there was never a time in his long and distinguished career in the House of Representatives that his position on any matter was not clear and forthright.

It was natural that MENDEL RIVERS in his first term in the House should seek and achieve a seat on the then Naval Affairs Committee. His constituency of Charleston, S.C., has historically been a naval base for this Nation. But MENDEL RIVERS did not stop there. With the formation of the Armed Services Committee, MENDEL RIVERS enlarged his sphere to embrace all the Armed Forces as his official constituency.

He loved and admired the men and women who guard our Nation, and fight for it, with a zeal unknown in the annals of this body. Never in our history had one single man devoted his life and career so wholeheartedly to our fighting forces—and he a man who had never worn a uniform.

If MENDEL RIVERS had been born earlier or later, who knows that he might have made the military his career. Nevertheless I doubt whether history will record any man in uniform or out who served his Nation's fighting forces with more love and sincerity.

And let no one suggest that MENDEL RIVERS' interest centered about the stars of generals and admirals. MENDEL's interest and love transcended all rank and position. It was the serviceman and servicewoman he loved—regardless of rank. His heart and office were open at all times for "gripes" of the lowest ranking enlisted man, and he acted expeditiously on their complaints. He was truly their friend.

There has been much talk—some good humored and some bitter—concerning the growth of military installations in the Charleston area. There is no question of this growth and MENDEL was the first to declare—and declare proudly—that he was responsible for this growth.

But let it not be forgotten or overlooked that there are many other areas of our Nation which owe MENDEL a debt of gratitude for his cooperation and interest. My own constituency of Philadelphia has been a beneficiary of MENDEL's interest and understanding. I say without equivocation that MENDEL extended me every possible cooperation when the military attempted to remove such viable and efficient operations as the Philadelphia Naval Base, the Frankford Arsenal, and the Army Electronics Command. These are still functioning efficiently because MENDEL listened with an open mind when I asked him to assist me.

Many, many other Members could make similar statements.

When the 92d Congress convenes in just a matter of days, MENDEL RIVERS will no longer be among us. His death leaves us a challenge. I hope we can fulfill it.

I know I join with the entire membership of the House in extending to his wife, Margaret, and their three children our heartfelt condolences for their great loss—and ours.

ADDRESS BY HON. OLIN E. TEAGUE

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, we are all diminished—as a legislative body and as a nation—by the death of our dear friend, MENDEL RIVERS, the gentleman from South Carolina, and chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

It had become popular in some quarters to refer to MENDEL RIVERS as a controversial Congressman and a controversial chairman.

All I can say is that I served with MENDEL RIVERS, and worked closely with him during the entire 24 years I have served in this body—our areas of legislative interest were often joined together—and I never found him controversial in the least. He was always considerate, kindly, helpful, knowledgeable, and a Christian gentleman.

Above all, he was a patriot, and it is a sad commentary on our decadent times that it was this patriotism which caused lesser persons to call him controversial. He loved this country as few men have the heart and the power to do, and he bitterly resented those who tried to degrade it.

He was firmly committed to the philosophy that military strength is the ultimate key to peace, and that weakness is the most certain means of creating national disaster. He supported the military to the limit whenever he felt their requests were reasonable. He was not—as some of his carping critics used to claim—blindly permissive in his attitudes toward the Pentagon, but he was not going to risk the safety and security of the Nation and its citizens through false and rashly imposed economies.

And, let no one forget that it was not only the "top brass" to whom he offered his protection and support. If anything, he was even more passionate in his defense and support of the GI. The life of the American fighting man is far more humanized and endurable today than it was during World War II, for instance, and most of those improvements came about on the insistence of MENDEL RIVERS, and some of them were achieved despite Pentagon disapproval.

MENDEL RIVERS was my friend, and I regret his passing very deeply.

ADDRESS BY HON. DON FUQUA

OF FLORIDA

Mr. Speaker, this Nation has lost a valiant soldier with the passing from our midst of L. MENDEL RIVERS.

Here was a man who fought fiercely for those principles in which he believed. History will regard him among the truly great men in this Nation's life. He was a man of courage and determination; he was forthright as he fought for his beloved country.

He was among the first men I met when I came to the Congress and I came to respect him because of the man that he was. He was rightly concerned about the defense of this Nation as we have entered into an era where a strong national defense is the only means to preserve the peace for all men.

In truth, MENDEL RIVERS was fighting for all of the people of the world, for he understood that the United States is the bulwark of freedom and only by remaining strong can we hope to deter aggression from the despot and those who seek to enslave the minds of men.

Fifteen times the people of the Charleston area named him as their Representative. Few men have ever represented their district so ably; but in a larger sense he was truly a Representative for the Nation.

I well remember the pride he felt back in 1965 as he became chairman of the Armed Services Committee. I remember that my own feelings were that a strong advocate of national defense, Carl Vinson, had been succeeded by another and that this Nation would be well served. Today I can say that he was a good and faithful servant in his mission.

MENDEL RIVERS is gone from our midst but I would hope that what he stood for will never be forgotten.

Let us heed his warnings that our Navy is becoming obsolete and in disrepair. Let us remember his concern at the state of our Air Force and Army and that they must continually be modernized and upgraded.

To me, MENDEL RIVERS stood for something great. His hero was the dynamic John C. Calhoun, and now he has joined that statesman as South Carolina's two most magnificent contributions to this Nation.

When he received a cap from GI's on Christmas leave from Vietnam—with six stars and inscribed to "the Big Boss," it was a testimonial from our men and women in our armed services who knew that he was their friend and one who would not hesitate to battle any odds for them.

Now that he is gone, it is up to us to carry on the battle which he fought so boldly, nobly, and devotedly.

To his family I extend my deepest sympathy. To them I say that we have all suffered a great loss, but we can take heart in the knowledge that this man lived a life of service and that as long as men revere courage, patriotism and devotion, he can never be forgotten.

ADDRESS BY HON. ROBERT McCLORY

OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Speaker, in the passing of our colleague from South Carolina, Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS, this body has lost the services of one of its most vigorous and colorful Members.

Mr. Speaker, in faithful dedication to this Nation and to its national security, Chairman RIVERS served his committee, the Congress and the Nation with fidelity and with marked effectiveness during a period of trial and unrest unmatched in recent history.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman RIVERS was a true southern gentleman in the finest sense of the term. He was always gentlemanly while at the same time straightforward and firm in the positions which he advanced.

Mr. Speaker, I feel privileged to have known Congressman RIVERS and to have had him as a friend and colleague.

In this hour following his passing, Mrs. McClory and I extend to Mrs. Rivers and to the members of his family our deep sympathy.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN R. RARICK

OF LOUISIANA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a dear friend and colleague, a great American patriot and Christian gentleman, the Congressman from South Carolina, the late Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS.

The United States has been well and faithfully served by many prestigious statesmen, and leaders from the State of South Carolina but none have been more dedicated to our constitutional Republic, the perpetuation of individual liberty under God and America's destined role in world leadership than Congressman RIVERS.

Congressman RIVERS' fearless devotion to his people and his country is without equal. His defense and praise for our system of government are well preserved through his some 30 years of continuous service as a Member of this body. His untiring and unselfish efforts always seemed more effective during times of crisis, when others seemed to be faltering.

Congressman RIVERS' speech, as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, before this body on September 28, shortly before his tragic death, will long be remembered by his fellow countrymen when MENDEL, at his finest hour said:

> Never before in the 30 years of my membership in this body have I stepped into the well of this House with greater concern for the future of this Nation.
>
> The fears that I have are those that must be shared by every American regardless of his political or social philosophy or his economic status.
>
> All Americans have been given the blessed and priceless heritage of freedom—a feedom which I am convinced is in terrible jeopardy.

His passing leaves the footprints of a giant to be filled, and the burdens of an Atlas to be borne by those who inherit his legacy.

To his beloved widow and surviving relatives, the people of the Sixth District of Louisiana join me in extending our deepest sympathy in this their hour of bereavement, reminding them that their loss is also borne by every free man throughout the world who labors for liberty, honor, and justice.

His voice is silent,
His place vacant,
His column is broken,
His work is done.

His death is untimely
But his memory and work
Shall be perpetuated and live on in the
Hearts of all free men who knew
Him and all who understand his tocsin.

ADDRESS BY HON. THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR.

OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grieved by the recent loss of my personal friend and colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS. He was a loyal American and an outstanding leader. Many tributes will be offered in his honor, yet the greatest tribute I can give is that Chairman RIVERS was a man of strong principle, and a man who lived by them.

L. MENDEL RIVERS came to the House some 30 years ago and served this country during some of its most difficult years. He became chairman of the Armed Services Committee and in this position he worked to maintain the military superiority of the Nation.

Chairman RIVERS introduced legislation, and saw that it passed, to improve the lives of men and their families in the Armed Services. Chairman RIVERS fought for increased salaries, fringe benefits, and guaranteed rights for American servicemen. This work has won for him the loyalty and respect of serviceman, citizen, and colleague. He worked to modernize every aspect of our Nation's defense, particularly the Navy, and to bring both military capability and military justice to the highest level.

On the floor of the House, he evoked the interest of both supporter and critic because of his clear and dynamic manner. He was a vital catalyst for the Members of this House, and the people of this Nation. He fine tuned and strengthened the position of everyone regarding the military. He made all of us look hard and evaluate the military, particularly the role it would play in the future development of the United States.

MENDEL RIVERS' hard work and dedication will always be appreciated. Mrs. O'Neill and I extend our deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to his lovely wife, Margaret, and his three fine children.

ADDRESS BY HON. F. EDWARD HÉBERT

OF LOUISIANA

Mr. Speaker, Admiral Joseph J. Clark, U.S. Navy, retired, has requested that the January 11, 1971, issue of Counterattack be placed in the Record.

It speaks of the late L. MENDEL RIVERS, and I would like to make its message known to all.

THE LATE LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of LUCIUS MENDEL RIVERS, chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee. Mr. RIVERS served in Congress for thirty years and in 1965 succeeded his mentor, Carl Vinson of Georgia, as chairman of the House panel which raises and oversees tens of billions of dollars in defense spending each year.

Mr. RIVERS believed that freedom in the modern world was tied inextricably to the military might of the United States. As an activist, he did not believe in waiting for the day of judgment. From the point of view of our defense posture, this takes place every day. An Administration achieves wisdom when it realizes that a government is judged by what it does, not by what it says. The great Winston Churchill once said, "Democracy is the worst system of government with the possible exception of all the others."

Mr. RIVERS was an indefatigable worker who labored long hours at his job. He studied and knew the details of military operations, installations, aircraft, ships, tanks, and other hardware. Although he never served in the Armed Forces, he championed the cause of the enlisted man and often challenged the brass in their cause.

We enjoyed a pleasant relationship with Mr. RIVERS who at times published articles from issues of Counterattack in the Congressional Record. His unswerving objective was defense. He was a fierce advocate and never retreated from his convictions once he was convinced of their military necessity. He was unmoved and could not care less about anti-military and anti-war sentiments believing that the majority of Americans approved his judgments. Where Mr. RIVERS was most vulnerable to criticism was in the overloading of his congressional district in South Carolina with military installations, such as an Army depot; a Navy base, shipyard, supply center, hospital, weapons

center, and submarine base; an Air Force base; a Marine Corps air station and training center; and a Coast Guard station and mine warfare station. The combined government payrolls and defense plant payrolls in the Charleston area are said to account for nearly fifty per cent of the area's total earned income. Congressman Vinson once sagely observed, "You put anything else down there in your district, MENDEL, it's gonna sink."

What synthetic intellectuals of the right or the left often fail to recognize is that other people can disagree with them philosophically without being classified as bad guys. To most politicians and some writers, consensus means agreement with them. Their intolerance to dissent is part of their paranoia. There is many an egghead that houses a bird brain. Cynicism and disillusionment can destroy humanity just as definitely as bombs.

One of the best ways to judge a man's worth is by the enemies he has made. One of the most intellectually disruptable utterances on the passing of Congressman RIVERS was published in the "New York Post" on December 30, 1970 under the by-line of one Pete Hamill. Mr. Hamill in the past has made it big by writing in a lachrymal vein on subjects of which he has some expertise, such as: canine feces in the streets of New York; the brutalization of the poor by an inept welfare system; the evils of racism, an advocacy of civil disobedience which has violated law but more often has enriched justice; a justifiable disenchantment with the Administration's economic game policies; a criticism of the newly acquired pseudo-conservatism of the Hard Hats; and support for the disenfranchised minority citizens of Northern Ireland. However, he now makes it small by showing that he has little to do other than to attack someone who can't strike back.

Like St. Francis of Assisi, Mr. Hamill seems to share the lives of his poorest downtrodden contemporaries. However, comparison to the charitable friar of antiquity has been brought to an abrupt stop with Mr. Hamill's eulogy of the deceased Congressman in which he ignored the traditional maxim, "De mortuis nil nisi bonum," by writing:

"MENDEL RIVERS will be safely tucked into the earth today, accompanied by the usual gushy salutes and the familiar lying rhetoric of death. There is a convention, rigidly adhered to by politicians and editorial writers, that says one must speak only about the nobility and goodness of the dead, no matter how rotten, dangerous or disgusting they were in the flesh; it's as if death and its attendant mysteries could suddenly cleanse a man's history. . . .

"The truth was that RIVERS was a common drunk and a nasty, willful, power-dazed man who obtained great power in Washington because of the vile anachronism of the seniority system. As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, he knelt before the admirals, generals and defense contractors for more than five years. He was such a great patriot that he managed to avoid military service through all his 65 years. . . .

"If there were ever a case for destroying the seniority system, this is it. Meanwhile, there should be no sad songs for the passing of MENDEL RIVERS. He's gone, and we're better off without him."

We do not believe that the editorials in "The Irish Echo" on the passing of David Lloyd George were as unfair as the foregoing diatribe, nor were the comments in the "The Jewish Daily Forward" as gleeful or vindictive on the occasion of the demise of the notorious Gestapo chief, Heinrich Himmler. While we understand Mr. Hamill's denunciation of the seniority system for selecting chairmen of standing committees in the Congress, we don't believe that his senior colleague, Jim Wechsler, a responsible liberal journalist, would exhibit the poor taste of tendentious ridicule to vilify the reputation of a deceased, even if unlamented, office holder. Aren't there enough subjects to write about, especially when self-serving politicians are keying their economic and defense policies to the tempo of the 1972 elections?

We are inclined to doubt that Mr. Hamill personally knew the late Mr. Rivers, an honorable man, who did his job in keeping with his convictions. One of the Congressman's most hostile opponents on the committee once admitted, "Mendel's motives are the very highest; I have never ever questioned his motives."

It is our opinion that many of the procedural rules of the Congress are archaic and should be changed. In fact, in spite of tradition, if Congressional speech makers deleted the word "distinguished" from their rhetoric, they could get 30% more work done. While one doesn't need to be young to dislike institutions, we must remember that it was always institutions that have made society work. Notwithstanding the fears of the military-industrial complex, the world has a better chance of ending with a whimper rather than with a bang.

We invite the attention of Mr. Pete Hamill, a maverick Brooklynite, who is usually an objective writer, to the most ultimate advice left as an epitaph to his fellow human beings by the late Aldous Huxley, "Be kinder to one another." That's what the Sermon on the Mount and the Paschal ceremonies are all about in our Judaic-Christian tradition. If all human beings were to lose their sense of glory, wouldn't we be poorer?

ADDRESS BY HON. JAMES A. HALEY

OF FLORIDA

Mr. Speaker, the death of Mendel Rivers has removed from the House a man the Congress, the Nation, and indeed the whole free world can ill afford to lose. I join my colleagues and his family in a deep sense of personal loss and grief.

As the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, MENDEL RIVERS was a controversial figure, in the Congress and in the news media, but I would believe that there are few if any Members of this body or of the general public who would believe that this eloquent son of South Carolina was other than totally dedicated to his State, his country, and to his beliefs and principles.

His vigorous and eloquent support of those beliefs and principles—the belief in his country as the greatest country in the world and the principle that to remain in that role in this competitive world it must be always prepared to defend itself against any aggressor—was in fact the reason he became a controversial figure.

Men who fight, as Congressman RIVERS always did, for their beliefs tend to become controversial. But the attacks of his opponents never daunted MENDEL RIVERS. He believed devoutly in what he believed, and he never deviated in the face of opposition. And even those who disagreed with some of his positions respected him for this.

Some of MENDEL RIVERS' opponents in the news media sought to portray him as the slave of the high brass in the military machine. But the truth—the demonstrable truth—is that he, more than any man in my memory in Congress, fought more vigorously and consistently in defense of the constitutional principle of civilian control of the military and in defense of the constitutional powers of the Congress with respect to civilian control.

Nor was MENDEL RIVERS the "slave" of the high brass when it came to the enlisted personnel of the armed services. They, rather than the officers, were always his first concern. He was always their friend—and they knew it, as witness the flood of tributes paid him by the rank-and-file soldier and sailor both before and after his death.

MENDEL RIVERS was an intensely human person. He was devoted to his family and to his people—and, properly so, they to him. He was a prophet not without honor in his home country.

This House will sorely miss his eloquence, his forcefulness, his determination, his wisdom, and his all-encompassing knowledge of his legislative field.

ADDRESS BY HON. BILL NICHOLS

OF ALABAMA

Mr. Speaker, in the February issue of Naval Affairs, which is the magazine for career enlisted personnel of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, a special tribute was paid to our late departed colleague, the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina, which I found to be most inspiring.

Chairman RIVERS' entire career in the Congress was spent improving the life of the U.S. servicemen and he often stated that—

Servicemen in uniform don't have a lobby like some of the other people have. The only lobby servicemen have is the Committee on Armed Services.

I am sure that my colleagues and the readers of the Record will find this tribute to be both a fitting and apropos commendation to this great American:

THE HONORABLE L. MENDEL RIVERS: THE U.S. SERVICEMEN'S CONGRESSMAN AND A SHIPMATE

Shipmate L. MENDEL RIVERS of Charleston Branch 50, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services, joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander at 0240 E.S.T., Monday, 28 December 1970 while recovering from cardiac surgery at the University Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Chairman RIVERS underwent open heart surgery by Dr. John Kirklin on 11 December to replace a leaking mitral valve in his heart with a plastic valve. His post-operative recovery was progressing normally until 20 December when he suffered heart stoppage and was revived by chest massage. Thereafter, his condition remained critical, but improved slightly, until his demise.

The National Charter of the Fleet Reserve Association will be draped for thirty days. All Branches of the Fleet Reserve Association will drape their Charters for the same period commencing on 30 December 1970 in accordance with Section 2707 of the Fleet Reserve Association "Rituals."

Chairman RIVERS was born on 28 September 1905 on a farm in Gumville, South Carolina, near a place called Hell Hole Swamp, in the low country of that state's coastal plain. His father farmed and operated a small turpentine still. When MENDEL (he never used his first name "LUCIUS") was eight his father died. His mother lost the family home and moved her six children to North Charleston where she took in boarders.

Young MENDEL grew up determined to be a lawyer. He clerked in a country store, delivered papers pony-back, played outfield for a semi-pro baseball team and worked in the Charleston Navy Yard. He attended the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina but was economically forced

to quit his formal education. He gained employment in a Charleston law office where he pursued his law studies. He passed the South Carolina bar examination in 1932 before obtaining a law degree.

He served in the South Carolina Legislature from 1933 to 1936. From 1936 to 1940 he served as a special attorney in the United States Department of Justice; and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

In 1940 he ran for Congress against the advice of seasoned and influential local politicians. He campaigned against "the Charleston crowd" and drew heavy support from the rural areas of the district. To the surprise of all, he won and thereafter never faced serious opposition. He had opposition in only two or three of his subsequent fifteen successful campaigns for reelection.

In the second session of the 88th Congress in 1964, the Honorable Carl Vinson, then Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, announced his retirement. Representative RIVERS was the ranking Democrat on that Committee and he succeeded "Uncle Carl" as Chairman upon the convening of the 89th Congress in January 1965.

Shipmate RIVERS was always a strong advocate of legislation beneficial to military personnel. He played a key role in the House's passage of the provision to restore the principle of recomputation of military retired pay for those who retired prior to 1 July 1958 in the 1963 military pay bill. He was Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Medical Benefits in 1964. His leadership resulted in the enactment of Public Law 89–614 establishing the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) in 1966.

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee he immediately began to exert strong influence for the improvement of military pay, allowances and benefits. The first test of his leadership was the successful passage and enactment of a military pay raise that was twice the amount proposed by the Administration in its 1965 budget. Following that victory, military personnel knew they had found a champion and their benefits increased each year because of his legislative innovations, expertise and dedication to his philosophy, "The Serviceman and his family are entitled to a standard of living equal to the standard of living they're defending."

Chairman RIVERS left no stone unturned and he never missed an opportunity to act in behalf of all military personnel. His record of military personnel legislation enacted is almost legendary in the annals of legislative history. He fought tremendous odds, including two Administrations, to provide our nation with an adequate military defense.

Chairman RIVERS was a member of the Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Funeral services were held there at 1300, Wednesday, 30 December 1970 and interment followed in the town of St. Stephens, South Carolina. St. Stephen was the home of the Chairman's parents and is forty-six miles from Charleston. Shipmates National President Robert L. Bastian and National Executive Secretary Robert W. Nolan represented the Fleet Reserve Association at the church and graveside services.

His 82,500 Shipmates of the Fleet Reserve Association, indeed, all military personnel, active duty and retired, deeply mourn his passing. His beloved wife, Margaret, his daughters, Mrs. Robert Eastman and Marion, and young Lucius Mendel Jr. can take great pride in the Chairman's service to his nation and the Free World during the past thirty years. Dr. Albert Einstein said,

ONLY A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS IS A LIFE WORTH WHILE

Shipmate Chairman RIVERS' life is the epitome of that statement. It will be a space of time before another like him walks with us and carries our burden to make the way easier for us, his Shipmates.

The family has requested that those who wish to remember Chairman RIVERS in a special way may wish to address their remembrances to the L. Mendel Rivers Heart Surgery Research Fund, Department of Surgery, Alabama Medical Center, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama. Messages of condolence may be addressed to: Mrs. L. Mendel Rivers, 640 Federal Building, Charleston, South Carolina 29403:

"As the years roll by, one by one, we end our cruise. The anchor is dropped to rise from the waters no more.

"Shipmate L. MENDEL RIVERS sailed through life's cruise, meeting more than his share of calms and storms, adverse tides and favoring winds; his ship of life has come to its final anchorage in a harbor still uncharted by mortal men. We who remain do not know the waters there, but we do know the course to steer and we believe that our Shipmate, setting his course by those beacons that have been given us, has found that harbor safely. To those loved ones whom our departed Shipmate has left behind, awaiting their own day of departure and voyage to that same harbor of eternal mercy, we can only offer our sympathy in this time of separation and loneliness. There are many words that could be used at this time to describe the good and outstanding qualities of the one who has gone before, but we of the Fleet Reserve Association, of which he was a member, sum it up in one word: Shipmate. That word, when spoken by naval men, embodies all that can be said of any man. Chairman L. MENDEL RIVERS was a Shipmate.

"We who remain to carry on should not think of Shipmate RIVERS as gone from us, but rather that he has been transferred to another ship or station where we all hope to be Shipmates again."

ADDRESS BY HON. JOE L. EVINS

OF TENNESSEE

Mr. Speaker, during the recent recess of the Congress our beloved friend and colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina, MENDEL RIVERS, passed away and I wanted to take this means of paying a

brief but sincere tribute to the memory of this great American statesman.

MENDEL RIVERS was a man of courage and honor—he stood firm and unyielding for a strong defense for our Nation, believing that it is better to err on the side of strength than on the side of weakness in crucial matters involving national defense.

As chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services and as Representative from the First District of South Carolina, he served his district, State, and Nation faithfully and well. He represented his district with great ability and success and yet in a much broader sense he represented the best interests of the Nation.

We can thank his leadership in large part for our Nation's excellent state of preparedness. He knew and understood our responsibilities and our heritage.

MENDEL RIVERS was a great personality—many who saw him often remarked that he looked like a Congressman. He had the stature, the bearing, the dignity—the charisma, if you will—of a great Congressman—a great American statesman.

MENDEL RIVERS will be greatly missed in these sacred precincts and I want to take this opportunity to extend to Mrs. Rivers and other members of the family this expression of my deepest and most sincere sympathy. My wife, Mrs. Evins, joins me in these expressions and sentiments.

ADDRESS BY HON. F. EDWARD HÉBERT

OF LOUISIANA

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the Armed Forces Journal for January 18, 1971, contains a very special and unique tribute to the late chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS.

The Journal presents a picture of Chairman RIVERS by selected quotations by many Members of Congress who knew him and worked with him—occasionally worked against him. The sum total is to give a very singular picture of a very singular man.

The article follows:

"On December 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Mendel Rivers handled what was to be his last piece of legislation, the resolution in support [of] efforts to rescue American Prisoners of War in North Vietnam. . . . [He] said, among other things:

" 'I want the world to know I would tell that crowd in Hanoi, you will either treat them with dignity or some of you will not be here tomorrow . . . So far as I am concerned, . . . if I were the President of the United States, I would deliver an ultimatum to this crowd and let them guess where the next blow is coming from.'

"That was the kind of man he was. He believed in determining what was the right thing, and then standing up firmly for it." Representative John L. McMillan (D-SC), Chairman, District Committee, Vice-Chairman, Agriculture Committee.

"He was a finished student of the subject matter with which his committee dealt. Few Members have ever known their area of operations in the House as he knew his. . . . [He] was peerless in debate, eloquent, fluent, witty, intelligent, and always in command. . . ." Representative Carl B. Albert (D-Okla), Majority Leader, 91st Congress.

"He believed in his country, its heritage, and its destiny. Every minute of his life was dedicated to the preservation of those concepts.

"I have never known a more energetic person. Every minute of his life was put to useful purposes. So far as I know he eschewed many of the pastimes, the card games, the fishing, and other time-consuming activities, in order to devote those moments to his goals—always overshadowed by his love of country and the maintenance of its security. . . . [His] foresight was uncanny." Representative O. Clark Fisher (D-Tex), Armed Services Committee.

"The American GI has lost his all-time favorite and generous champion; his enemies a determined and honorable opponent; his friends, a loyal and powerful ally; his family, a loving, kind, dedicated husband and father." Representative Richard Ichord (D-Mo) Chairman, Internal Security Committee.

"Holding a position of tremendous power in this House, he never abused that power. Yet, he was tough . . . But he was always fair." Representative Thomas G. Abernethy (D-Miss) Agriculture, District Committees.

"One does not have to be a so-called hawk to mourn the death of Mendel Rivers. . . . I knew [him] as courageous, good humored, fair, and characterized by a total lack of vindictiveness." Representative Clarence D. Long (D-Md) Armed Services Committee.

". . . MENDEL came here 30 years ago . . . and we stood in this House and took the oath of office. The ranks have thinned since then, and today . . . we find only nine names of that roster of 435 who were on the list at the time we took the oath. . . .

"He never complained. . . . On that day [7 December] when he was here exposing himself to this turmoil and to those turbulent arguments, he should have been in the hospital in Birmingham being operated on, and yet he was six months late getting there. If MENDEL RIVERS had listened to the advice of his doctors he would have been in the hospital six months ago, and his chances of recovery would have been 80 percent. But yet he saw in his work here the call to a duty that he could not reject. Yes, he did stay on the firing line. . . .

"I must tell you and share this with you: that I think I am the only Member who saw him in the hospital. . . . [The] MENDEL RIVERS I talked to in that hospital bed was the same MENDEL RIVERS that you know . . . passionately dedicated to that in which he believed, and barking instructions to me on what to do from that hospital bed." Representative F. Edward Hébert (D-La) Armed Services Committee.

". . . [One] of the outstanding attributes . . . was his deep concern for the men in uniform. Their well-being was first and foremost in his mind. He wanted them to be well paid. . . . He wanted them to have the best of health care. . . . He wanted them to have the finest equipment possible. . . . He loved his nation dearly and feared for her well-being." Representative Durward G. Hall (R-Mo) Armed Services Committee.

"He fought for all the military, from private to general. . . ." Representative Ed Foreman (R-NM) Armed Services Committee.

"From buck private to five-star general, from the Air Force to the Coast Guard, the Chairman saw to it that the American military man never had to take a back seat to any other individual in our society or any other. . . .

"I also know that Chairman RIVERS was a devoted father and a conscientious family man who cared very deeply about his wife and children. Being the father of four myself, we discussed from time to time some of the different situations that arise in a busy and active family. I learned firsthand of the love and respect which he always gave to those closest to him." Representative Charles H. Wilson (D-Calif), Armed Services Committee, Chairman, Post Office and Civil Service, Subcommittee on Postal Facilities and Modernization.

". . . [Can] greater honor be paid to anyone than to have been regarded by so many as 'protector' and 'compatriot'?" Representative Frank A Stubblefield (D-Ky), Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

"He knew what he was talking about. For about two decades, for 20 years, I sat with him there on that committee, and in this period of time I do not remember ever hearing a military man who came before that committee—for instance, in the field of airpower, types of airplanes or things of that kind—who knew anywhere near as much as the chairman. . . .

"MENDEL did not get this information by just listening to other people who knew less than he. He got it by studying, by working, by burning the midnight oil. . . .

"I do not believe I ever saw MENDEL, when he was in a relaxed mood, when he did not ask me about my children. I was a bachelor for a long time, and have a young family for my years, and he particularly encouraged me to take time off and to share interests with my children, and he said that I should do these things, because 'They will go before you know it.' " Representative Charles Bennett (D-Fla) Chairman, Armed Services Seapower and Real Estate Subcommittees.

"The American serviceman has lost his most persuasive and effective proponent. From the enlisted men to the highest ranking officers, servicemen knew that they had no better friend. . . . The forceful Congressman withstood constant attacks of the most vitrolic kind on his personal and professional competence. Yet, he was unscarred by these attackers, for he was bigger than such petty prejudices." Representative W. C. Daniel (D-Va) Armed Services Committee.

"Although he never wore the uniform of his country, he was second to none in his love for it. . . . The American in uniform never had a better friend. . . ." Representative William G. Bray (R-Ind) Armed Services, Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committees.

"Remember the words of Ovid: 'It is not wealth, nor ancestry, but honorable conduct and a noble disposition that makes men great.' By this measure, L. MENDEL RIVERS was a great American." Representative Robert N. Giaimo (D-Conn), Appropriations Committee.

"I knew him well, better then most. He and I came to Congress together in 1941, a long time ago. . . . We have lost a champion among Congressmen. America has lost a great son." Representative Robert L. F. Sikes (D-Fla), Appropriations Committee.

"Eloquent in oratory, vigorous convictions powerfully expressed, and deep, passionate loyalty. A man with cherished roots, loving his home, his State and its people, he was able to extend that concern to the whole Nation. We shall not soon see another of his stature." Representative Edward P. Boland (D-Mass), Appropriations Committee.

"He was a man of deep, spiritual faith and when I traveled with him on various occasions, I noted that on Sundays he always attended church without fail, even in instances when he might have to go far out of his way to do so. . . .

"At times he was maligned and many lies were circulated about him that were without foundation. In public life, he was often the victim of gross misrepresentation, but it never shook his faith in his public calling, and it never caused him to lose faith in the people whom he loved with all his heart. He was a great and good man." Representative Philip J. Philbin (D-Mass), Second ranking majority member, House Armed Services Committee, 91st Congress—thus, the man who likely would have succeeded L. MENDEL RIVERS as Chairman. Defeated for re-election to 92nd Congress.

"MENDEL RIVERS was no stranger to poverty or to hard work. . . . The elder Rivers died when MENDEL was quite young, forcing him to take on more

of the farm chores. Later, while a high school student, he would arise at 4 a.m., milk cows, deliver newspapers, and then catch the trolley into Charleston. . . . [His] voting record in the House of Representatives was among the most progressive of all his colleagues from the Deep South. He supported much legislation to help the under-privileged, to help them up the ladder of life. . . . [He] believed that weakness invites disaster and invites war, and that strength promotes peace. . . .

"I would like to tell you something else about MENDEL RIVERS, about the personal problems which he courageously overcame. For many years he vanquished the heart trouble that only some . . . knew about. We are aware of another personal problem over which he had been totally and courageously victorious. He was successful over this personal problem through the same tenacity and perseverance with which he led his great committee. His victorious battle over this problem is an inspiration to all of us." Representative William J. B. Dorn (D-SC) Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Although others have suggested a hardness and insensitivity about him, those who knew him knew also of his warmth and his interest in human beings in all segments of society." Representative John S. Monagan (D-Conn) Government Operations Committee.

"I always regarded MENDEL RIVERS as a sincere patriot who was interested primarily in the security of his country. He worked hard at his job, he knew what was going on and felt that he had an obligation to take the initiative. . . ." Representative Thomas E. Morgan (D-Pa) Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee and Special Subcommittee for Review of Foreign Aid Programs.

"MENDEL RIVERS was a man of his word. . . . He was a hard worker. My office happens to be just one or two doors from the office which he occupied.

"Frankly, I can state that I never arrived earlier at my office than did MENDEL RIVERS. . . . Just before he left I had a long talk with him about some of our problems and at no time had I ever heard him complain in any way. But on that day he said to me that he had been having a little trouble with his heart . . . little did I realize how serious it was." Representative Hale Boggs (D-La) Vice Chairman, National Democratic Committee, Democratic Whip, 91st Congress, Joint Committee on Reduction of Federal Expenditures, Joint Economic Committee.

"I read in the newspapers that MENDEL RIVERS was considered autocratic. . . . On the contrary, he was never autocratic. . . . I remember an incident some years ago . . . when we were getting ready to leave for one of the meetings [of the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Assembly]. . . . When I came on board the big jet, the military aide introduced me to the crew and said, 'This is the chairman.' And the colonel who was the pilot of the plane said, 'The chairman is already on board.' Well, obviously to any military man the chairman was MENDEL RIVERS and I did not abuse the colonel. MENDEL RIVERS straightened him out. He said. 'I am the chairman most of the time, but on this trip and on this mission, Mr. Hays is the chairman and I am just one of the soldiers in the ranks.'

"We did not have to agree with him to say that this is a great American. . . ." Representative Wayne L. Hays (D-Ohio) Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman, U.S. Delegation to the NATO Atlantic Assembly.

"He had a magnificent sense of humor, and while he could use it devastatingly in debate, and frequently used it against me, he could also laugh at himself. . . .

"He loved nature, flowers in particular. . . .

"His judgments were not always my judgments, and his priorities were not always mine. I frequently questioned his judgments and his priorities. But I have never ever questioned his motives." Representative Otis G. Pike (D-NY), Chairman, Armed Services Special Subcommittee on Survivor Benefits.

"Here was a man with whom one could have honest differences, as he and I certainly did; and yet maintain mutual respect. . . ." Representative Lester L. Wolff (D-NY), Foreign Affairs Committee.

"MENDEL RIVERS was the best whether he was with you or against you. . . . He never ducked an issue.

"It was a shock to me . . . several weeks ago when I learned that he had a medical problem that eventually led to his passing. But I think the fact that he never told many that he had this illness was typical of MENDEL RIVERS." Representative Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich) Minority Leader, 91st Congress.

"He was not arbitrary. He never made a decision without consulting the minority.

"He is said to have been controversial, but not insofar as I am concerned. He was controversial because he stood firm on what he believed. He stood firm on making certain that our country had a national defense second to none." Representative Leslie C. Arends (R-Ill) Republican Whip, Armed Services Committee.

"He was always tolerant in his dealings with his fellow committee chairman. . . ." Representative George D. Mahon (D-Tex) Chairman, Appropriations Committee.

"There are many who did not agree with MENDEL RIVERS, but no one ever accused him of avarice. No one ever had any doubt about where he stood. He believed passionately in the things he defended, and his faith was not doubted by any man, even his most ardent enemies." Representative Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex) Banking and Currency Committee.

"He had his strong opinions, but he never shunned inquiry into controversy." Representative Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz) Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

"While we did not necessarily agree upon all matters, I found the chairman considerate, gracious, and always a true gentleman in every sense." Representative Peter N. Kyros (D-Me) Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

"He told me on our first day that the Armed Services Committee had no place for politics. He was as true as his word, never manifesting the slightest degree of partisanship. . . . His single concern was our national security. Individual members might have taken issue with him on specific points, but at no time did this influence his personal relationship with them. This is a mark of manliness, and I have never seen it displayed by anyone else in such

a grand manner." Representative G. William Whitehurst (R-Va) Armed Services Committee.

". . . [There] probably has never been a man in the Congress who was more severely attacked by outsiders, most of whom did not really understand him. . . .

"For one thing, you never had any doubt where he stood. There was never any equivocation, never any trying to straddle or duck an issue. . . . And although there were Members with whom he differed—and upon occasion I was included in that number—he still made it possible for committee members with whom he did not agree to assume responsibility in the committee, nevertheless, and he made a special point of recognizing the contributions . . . they made." Representative Samuel S. Stratton (D-NY) Chairman, Armed Services Antisubmarine Warfare Committee.

"While he admitted that he could not always understand their actions, he placed the greatest charity upon his enemies. Only a few weeks before his death I heard him comment that he just could not understand why so many reporters seemed to delight in condemning him, even though he was giving his all to his country." Representative Earl F. Landgrebe (R-Ind).

"While our political philosophy on domestic matters was in conflict, he respected my views and I respected his. . . . Many [Members] . . . have frequently expressed to me their personal fondness for MENDEL RIVERS—despite conflicting views." Representative Melvin Price (D-Ill) Chairman, Armed Services Special Subcommittee on Airlift, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

"He was a man who did not care a little—he cared a lot. . . . I participated as strongly as any of his House colleagues in challenging some of his conclusions. . . . In spite of those differences, I cannot recall any favor or request of mine that he ever denied unless it was for more time in cross examination." Representative Robert T. Leggett (D-Calif) Armed Services, Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committees.

"He was kind to junior Members, gracious to his adversaries and extraordinarily vigilant for his country. . . . [He] recognized that this Nation cannot make social progress if we do not first retain the basic freedom to pursue it." Representative Louis C. Wyman (R-NH) Appropriations Committee.

This year was to mark his 30th anniversary in Congress. And this issue of the Journal was to be his issue.

It's not easy to describe a man who fought so hard over so many years for millions of constituents in uniform—most of whom couldn't vote for him however much they might have wanted to. It's even more difficult to write about him when, suddenly, he has died—because you remember him so full of life.

People in his district will tell you that MENDEL RIVERS never changed. There was nothing of the stuffed shirt about him. Contrary to some impressions, he was a humble man. But it's hard to describe him as humble, because he was such a colorful figure, and such a very big man in so many ways. He was a *particularly* big man in all that he did for Servicemen and their families—the many fights he won on their behalf which gained him little or no benefit.

When we talked with MENDEL RIVERS on December 3, in what turned out to be his last press interview, he named two officers whom he held in "highest regard": VAdm. H. G. Rickover and former Marine Corps Commandant General Wallace M. Greene, Jr.

HOW DO YOU JUDGE AN EAGLE?

Just two days earlier, Rickover had introduced the Chairman and his wife at ceremonies in Newport News for the keel-laying of the nuclear-powered guided missile frigate *South Carolina.* RIVERS was especially pleased when Rickover introduced Mrs. Rivers in these words: "Only those women who have the misfortune to be married to politicians can have any conception of the patience, understanding, and fortitude she possesses." And the Chairman kidded us for interviewing the wrong person—he said we should have asked to visit with his wife instead.

His Chief Counsel John R. (Russ) Blandford, will tell you, "It's not easy to describe MENDEL RIVERS." Admiral Rickover put it another way at the *South Carolina* keel-laying: "There is no use trying to explain him by reducing a versatile man to one or two main talents. He cannot be judged in the way some people judge an eagle by noting how he walks on the ground."

Rickover tried to describe the real MENDEL RIVERS: "He has had to fight every mile of his road through life; nothing comes easily to him, not even oratory in which he excels. . . . He does not believe that being serious means going about with a long face. He has always held calmness to be a form of virtue; it is in many cases an extremely difficult form of courage.

"He is one of the most unintimidable men in the United States. He knows that a good leader is doing his job when half the people are following him and half are chasing him.

"He understands the chasm between men with knowledge who lack power and men with power who lack knowledge."

IMPORTANT OMISSIONS

RIVERS was an enigma to the press, and often maligned by it. Drew Pearson was one who wrote particularly bitter columns which conveyed, in the early and mid-sixties, a distorted picture of RIVERS as an alcoholic. What Pearson never pointed out was that the problem—which Pearson grossly overstated—existed in the early and mid-*fifties,* and MENDEL RIVERS *knew* he had a problem and fought it and conquered it, that the problem *never* interfered with Mr. RIVERS' work on the Armed Services Committee, and that it *never* involved, as Pearson alleged, "security risks." (One senior officer who knew MENDEL RIVERS especially well called Pearson to tell him, "You're wrong about this man," but Pearson kept on writing.) And as one of his close associates told us, "MENDEL fought the problem harder than any man I ever knew. And he licked it, on his own."

One of the most perceptive articles ever written about MENDEL RIVERS appeared in, of all places, *Women's Wear Daily* (3 June 1969). It said, "Even though RIVERS is portrayed too often as a captive of the Pentagon, the truth is that he is his own boss. So much so he gives military men fits when he

decides they are playing cute with the taxpayers' money." From our own experience, we know this was an accurate description. On a number of occasions when The Journal printed articles with which RIVERS disagreed, he told us (in polite, but convincingly strong and often colorful language) what he disagreed with—and why—but only after he had first taken time to check out all the facts thoroughly. And, as he told us candidly in that last interview, "I've had a lot of *unpleasant* experiences with the military. I've opposed them on many issues, and I've had so much grief over officers coming before my committee with a bunch of bum dope that I've had to develop a basic skepticism about the testimony we get."

The press often portrayed him as a chairman who used his power blatantly for his own political benefit.

But the press forgot that MENDEL RIVERS got very few votes from his district in South Carolina over his fights for military Medicare and Denticare and for a better survivor benefits program. As one of his closest associates told us, "The military personnel budget doesn't get much copy in the daily press—and that's where MENDEL fought hardest for the Serviceman."

Columnists often commented on the number of military installations in Charleston, RIVERS' home district, but they failed to note that, while RIVERS *was* effective (as every Congressman should be in working for his constituents), the military itself has wanted to move more facilities south, for many reasons. Labor is cheaper, land is cheaper, and the weather is temperate enough to permit year-'round training. For the Navy especially, moving some of its forces and facilities to Charleston has paid substantial benefits: Ships stationed in Charleston (or in Mayport, Fla., for that matter) get to training areas in the Caribbean a full day quicker than do ships berthed in Norfolk or further north in Newport or Boston. They also have fewer training exercises cancelled because of poor weather; and the ships suffer less wear and tear from winter weather.

Russ Blandford will tell you that MENDEL RIVERS was genuinely amused by all the credit he was given for building up the First Congressional District of South Carolina. (The press always cited, for instance, the Marine Corps recruit training depot at Parris Island. It failed to mention that the post was established in 1891, 14 years before MENDEL RIVERS *was born.* And the press talked about the Charleston Navy Yard, established *four* years before he was born.)

As Blandford puts it, "The people who were doing their best to defeat him, by giving him credit for all these installations, were probably his greatest boosters—without even knowing it."

Russ Blandford (who is probably as close to F. Edward Hébert as he was to L. MENDEL RIVERS) describes his former boss this way: "He was the most versatile man, and he had the best sense of timing. And I'm convinced he had extrasensory perception, as well.

"He had the gruffest outside, and the softest heart, of any man I've ever known. He could put a chill into any witness just by looking at him—but he was an extremely kind man. I know many people he helped over rough roads. He was generous, much more so than ever showed.

"His greatest competence was his unfailing memory. If you told him something once, he never forgot it. This can be pretty frightening to a chief counsel or to a member of the staff, because you had to be right the first time. But he was forgiving when you erred, and he didn't make a big deal about it.

"He was non-political and non-partisan—he ran this Committee as non-partisanly as it is humanly possible to do. He never asked a prospective member of the staff about his political affiliation.

"I remember when we looked for the first time at the new Committee hearing room—now called the Carl Vinson Room—here in the Rayburn building. He asked me, 'What are the two waiting rooms to either side all about?' And I told him, 'One is for the majority, one is for the minority.' And he looked at me with fire in his eyes and said, 'We have no majority or minority. All members of this committee are Americans, interested in national security.' There wasn't any audience around; it wasn't a publicity stunt; he was just talking to me. That's why we don't have Democrats and Republicans going out to caucus over coffee—he sealed off one of those rooms and now they go out together."

Blandford, who knew him well, admits that criticism from the press hurt RIVERS very deeply. "They twisted his words, they hurt him badly," he says. But he adds, "He lived and breathed the American Serviceman; more than that, he lived this nation. 'The Star-Spangled Banner' and 'America the Beautiful' still brought tears to his eyes."

And Blandford described MENDEL RIVERS' dilemma with the press, as he reminded us of something MENDEL said in that 3 December interview: "You can disagree with a man without being disagreeable."

Some of those who started out to be his greatest detractors ended up paying MENDEL RIVERS his greatest tributes. An October 1970 *Esquire* profile started off with: "No doubt you have seen him in front of the tall doors of the House Armed Services Committee. He is swollen with secrets; all his shadows are washed out by the television lights. He defends the innocence of the troopers of My Lai, suggests the atomization of the North Vietnamese, points out that General Lewis B. Hershey is a loving sort of man."

The article ended with this paragraph: "And he knows that he is not the last who will have this vision. 'Some old boy' RIVERS told me, 'wrote that I said I have a *sense of greatness.* God damn it, that's just what I don't have! I'm just an ordinary Committee Chairman. I'm just an American. And when I'm gone, there'll be another one coming after me.' "

It's hard to tell what MENDEL RIVERS really was like, or all about. So we've decided, on these pages, to picture him in the words of those who knew him best—his colleagues in the House. As one of them said to us, "Let me tell you about MENDEL. . . ."

And *one* way to tell what MENDEL RIVERS *really* was like is to ask you to read another of his favorite poems—written by an Air Force officer in combat about one month before he gave his life for the nation that MENDEL RIVERS believed in.

ADDRESS BY HON. ROBERT L. F. SIKES

OF FLORIDA

Mr. Speaker, the great loss which Congress and the Nation have experienced because of the death of our esteemed colleague, L. MENDEL RIVERS, is very well expressed in an editorial in the February 1971 issue of "The Officer," a publication of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States.

In a similar vein, the February issue of "Naval Affairs" published by the Fleet Reserve Association in Washington carried a great tribute to our esteemed departed colleague.

I submit both for reprinting in the Congressional Record:

LOOKING AHEAD 30 YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF MENDEL RIVERS

One of the most powerful men in the nation, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, Richard B. Russell, said of the death of L. MENDEL RIVERS:

"No man ever lived who was more wholeheartedly dedicated to the defense of this Nation than MENDEL RIVERS and those of us who are convinced that a strong defense is our hope for continued freedom and peace have lost a champion.

"For three decades, I met with him in conference and we worked together in matters relating to the Armed Services. He not only had a far-reaching understanding of the operations of the Department of Defense, but he was unyielding in his efforts to insure that the Department was supplied with the necessary means to guarantee the security of this Nation.

"I am deeply saddened by his passing and I extend to Mrs. Rivers and her family my profound sympathy."

The depth of Senator Russell's convictions was conveyed more forcefully however, in his private comment to friends that it would be another generation before the real tragedy of the loss of the House champion of national preparedness would be felt. Thirty years from now, he said, would come the time of reckoning with regard to this nation's safety, and even survival, because the stalwart, resolute, and therefore embattled, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, had been removed by death from the bastion he manned in this nation's defense structure and its defense philosophy.

Much has been written about MENDEL RIVERS, and the fact that he was a controversial figure on the national scene. The media generally have fully disclosed his character as the hero and guardian of the rights of the men and women in the uniform of the United States of America. And yet, in everything that has been written about Mr. RIVERS, in summary of his career and his contribution to national survival, none has adequately conveyed the real strength of the man nor his spiritual commitment to the protection of this country's institutions, its ideals and traditions.

The way the game is played in Washington, with channels of communication so greatly broadened in this generation, national leadership is so often diluted, undermined or negated by the pleathora of bombast and propaganda spewed out to the public and constituting as it does an intellectual pollution so thick that the citizenry cannot possibly be expected to make logical decisions based upon actual truth.

Mendel Rivers was not the victim of this miasma; he could not be intimidated by propaganda; his character was not subject to assassination. Despite all that has been said about him and the basis for the longevity of his service to the half million people of the First District of South Carolina, there is no general recognition of the degree to which he was held in the esteem and affection of the broad base of citizenry which he represented. The fact is that Mendel Rivers' stature, his gifts, his leadership and his warm personality made him an institution of historic Charleston and environs, whose history and mores were based upon the earliest and purest Americana.

If a man is known by his enemies, as well as by his friends, it can be said of Mendel Rivers that his career had a brightness upon which he should reflect; because he was despised and lampooned upon every opportunity, by every element of those who were not tolerant of his stern adherence to a strong military policy in the nation, including many who honestly and in good conscience deplored his giving first priority to national military safety, as well as by those who either were a part of, or encouraged, the miniscule element of American society who are in open revolt, advocating revolution and overthrow of our Government and its Constitution.

Chairman Rivers had the support of the great majority not only of the Armed Services Committee but of the whole House, as was demonstrated time and again during the past several years when he was a target of abuse and libel. It may be sadly true that as Senator Russell predicts a future generation may tragically discover that Rivers was right and that his critics were in deep error. Yet we cannot accept the thesis that his influence and example of leadership will not continue under the 92nd Congress, and the succeeding Congresses, because his policy and his resolution represented the very essence of unhappy but pure truth—that is that the United States of America can survive only if it remains militarily strong and if the leadership of the nation continues to insist that every citizen must be willing to place his life on the line as the price of freedom.

The Honorable L. Mendel Rivers, 1905–70, U.S. Representative, First Congressional District of South Carolina

THE U.S. SERVICEMEN'S CONGRESSMAN AND A SHIPMATE

Shipmate L. Mendel Rivers of Charleston Branch 50, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services, joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander at 0240 E.S.T., Monday, 28 December 1970 while recovering from cardiac surgery at the University Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Chairman Rivers underwent open heart surgery by Dr. John Kirklin on 11 December to replace a leaking mitral valve in his

heart with a plastic valve. His postoperative recovery was progressing normally until 20 December when he suffered heart stoppage and was revived by chest massage. Thereafter, his condition remained critical, but improved slightly, until his demise.

The National Charter of the Fleet Reserve Association will be draped for thirty days. All Branches of the Fleet Reserve Association will drape their Charters for the same period commencing on 30 December 1970 in accordance with Section 2707 of the Fleet Reserve Association "Rituals."

Chairman RIVERS was born on 28 September 1905 on a farm in Gumville, South Carolina, near a place called Hell Hole Swamp, in the low country of that state's coastal plain. His father farmed and operated a small turpentine still. When MENDEL (he never used his first name "LUCIUS") was eight his father died. His mother lost the family home and moved her six children to North Charleston where she took in boarders.

Young MENDEL grew up determined to be a lawyer. He clerked in a country store, delivered papers pony-back, played outfield for a semi-pro baseball team and worked in the Charleston Navy Yard. He attended the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina but was economically forced to quit his formal education. He gained employment in a Charleston law office where he pursued his law studies. He passed the South Carolina bar examination in 1932 before obtaining a law degree.

He served in the South Carolina Legislature from 1933 to 1936. From 1936 to 1940 he served as a special attorney in the United States Department of Justice; and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

In 1940 he ran for Congress against the advice of seasoned and influential local politicians. He campaigned against "the Charleston crowd" and drew heavy support from the rural areas of the district. To the surprise of all, he won and thereafter never faced serious opposition. He had opposition in only two or three of his subsequent fifteen successful campaigns for reelection.

In the second session of the 88th Congress in 1964, The Honorable Carl Vinson, then Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, announced his retirement. Representative RIVERS was the ranking Democrat on that Committee and he succeeded "Uncle Carl" as Chairman upon the convening of the 89th Congress in January 1965.

Shipmate RIVERS was always a strong advocate of legislation beneficial to military personnel. He played a key role in the House's passage of the provision to restore the principle of recomputation of military retied pay for those who retired prior to July 1, 1958 in the 1963 military pay bill. He was Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Medical Benefits in 1964. His leadership resulted in the enactment of Public Law 89–614 establishing the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) in 1966.

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee he immediately began to exert strong influence for the improvement of military pay, allowances and benefits. The first test of his leadership was the successful passage and enactment of a military pay raise that was twice the amount proposed by the Administration in its 1965 budget. Following that victory, military

personnel knew they had found a champion and their benefits increased each year because of his legislative innovations, expertise and dedication to his philosophy. "The Serviceman and his family are entitled to a standard of living equal to the standard of living they're defending."

Chairman Rivers left no stone unturned and he never missed an opportunity to act in behalf of all military personnel. His record of military personnel legislation enacted is almost legendary in the annals of legislative history. He fought tremendous odds, including two Administrations, to provide our nation with an adequate military defense.

Chairman Rivers was a member of the Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Funeral services were held there at 1300, Wednesday, 30 December 1970 and interment followed in the town of St. Stephen, South Carolina. St. Stephen was the home of the Chairman's parents and is forty-six miles from Charleston. Shipmates National President Robert L. Bastian and National Executive Secretary Robert W. Nolan represented the Fleet Reserve Association at the church and graveside services.

His 82,500 Shipmates of the Fleet Reserve Association, indeed, all military personnel, active duty and retired, deeply mourn his passing. His beloved wife, Margaret, his daughters, Mrs. Robert Eastman and Marion, and young Lucius Mendel Jr. can take great pride in the Chairman's service to his nation and the Free World during the past thirty years. Dr. Albert Einstein said:

"ONLY A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS IS A LIFE WORTH WHILE"

Shipmate Chairman Rivers' life is the epitome of that statement. It will be a space of time before another like him walks with us and carries our burden to make the way easier for us, his Shipmates.

The family has requested that those who wish to remember Chairman Rivers in a special way may wish to address their remembrances to the L. Mendel Rivers Heart Surgery Research Fund, Department of Surgery, Alabama Medical Center, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama. Messages of condolence may be addressed to: Mrs. L. Mendel Rivers, 640 Federal Building, Charleston, South Carolina 29403.

As the years roll by, one by one, we end our cruise. The anchor is dropped to rise from the waters no more.

Shipmate L. Mendel Rivers sailed through life's cruise, meeting more than his share of calms and storms, adverse tides and favoring winds; his ship of life has come to its final anchorage in a harbor still uncharted by mortal men. We who remain do not know the waters there, but we do know the course to steer and we believe that our Shipmate, setting his course by those beacons that have been given us, has found that harbor safely. To those loved ones whom our departed Shipmate has left behind, awaiting their own day of departure and voyage to that same harbor of eternal mercy, we can only offer our sympathy in this time of separation and loneliness. There are many words that could be used at this time to describe the good and outstanding qualities of the one who has gone before, but we of the Fleet Reserve Association, of which he was a member, sum it up in one word: Shipmate. That word,

when spoken by naval men, embodies all that can be said of any man. Chairman L. MENDEL RIVERS was a Shipmate.

We who remain to carry on should not think of Shipmate RIVERS as gone from us, but rather that he has been transferred to another ship or station where we all hope to be Shipmates again.

R.W.N.

ADDRESS BY HON. JACK EDWARDS

OF ALABAMA

Mr. Speaker, the death last month of Congressman MENDEL RIVERS is still producing shock waves throughout this Nation and the free world. Many of us might be inclined at this late date to merely pay lipservice to the event of his sad death as simply the loss of another noble statesman.

To those of us who knew MENDEL RIVERS, his stature as a noble statesman was beyond the ordinary. He was a giant among legislators in his day and the alertness and concise logic of his oratory will, to be sure, echo through the Halls of Congress for years to come.

That MENDEL RIVERS was a champion in the cause for a strong, secure America is an understatement. His stand against those who would rather see America's defense posture reduced to the gutless shambles of the pre-World War II broomstick Army era, will not soon be forgotten. MENDEL RIVERS knew and saw the enemy within and without for every diabolical capability that enemy represented. And he never once considered lowering the storm warning flag to effect a compromise on the question of exactly how strong America should remain. He plotted his course to this end early in life and never wavered from it.

Across the pages of history, the name of MENDEL RIVERS will stand tall alongside those of the world's greatest prophetic thinkers. He was a spirited inspiration to free men everywhere.

PROCEEDINGS
IN THE
UNITED STATES SENATE

Proceedings in the Senate

MONDAY, *December 28, 1970.*

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I deeply regret to announce to the Senate the passing of the distinguished chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS of the First District of South Carolina.

Upon hearing of his death this morning, I issued the following statement:

The passing today of Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS is a national tragedy. The whole Nation mourns his death. The people of South Carolina, and especially those in his district, have suffered a great loss.

No man in America, including our Presidents, has done more for our national defense than MENDEL RIVERS. He has stood watch for these past three decades at the frontiers of our national security. His accomplishments were great, and our Nation is poorer by reason of his death.

MENDEL and I were close friends, and I feel a deep personal loss in his passing. He was a devoted husband and worthy father, and his beloved wife and children have my heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. President, in a day when our Defense Establishment is under attack from all sides, we desperately need more men of the caliber, dedication, and determination of MENDEL RIVERS. He was a leader and a fighter. He was a champion of the man in uniform. The soldier, sailor, and airman knew they had a friend in the Congress who would see that they received the best this country could provide. He was truly the minuteman of the 20th century. He was the Mark Twain of the Congress, the Paul Revere of our Defense Establishment, and the John Paul Jones of our 20th-century Navy. He died without satisfying one of his fiercest convictions—that of modernizing the American Navy. I hope and pray that the Congress, as a memorial to this truly unique man, will build a modern Navy in the decade of the seventies. This was his goal; let us make it our goal.

Mr. President, he faithfully followed the challenge laid down for us all by Daniel Webster who said:

Let our object be our country, our whole country and nothing but our country.

His life style, his flamboyance, his wit, his intelligence, his personality were to be greatly admired. One of the rarest things a man ever does is do the best he can. MENDEL RIVERS always met that test.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record remarks that I made before the Capital chapter of the Air Force Association honoring L. MENDEL RIVERS at the Washington Hilton Hotel on August 12, 1970, the Vice President's speech at the Air Force Association luncheon, and a document entitled "Nixon Tribute," which was a tribute by President Nixon to Representative L. MENDEL RIVERS on that occasion.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record as follows:

REMARKS BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. Vice President, Chairman RIVERS, President Schissell of the District Air Force Association, Members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is "Speedy" Strom, and I have come to hail *"Caesar."*

That is what my colleague, Senator Bill Fulbright, calls our distinguished guest of honor, and I kind of like it. What this country needs is more Caesars and fewer Chamberlains.

Last Monday when I thought I might need a lawyer to help with a traffic ticket, the first name that crossed by mind was MENDEL RIVERS—*symbol of power.*

Back during the first decade of this century in a community called Gumville, South Carolina, situated in an area also known as Hell Hole Swamp, the man being honored here today began the great adventure called life.

It was not an easy life, for at the age of eight, his father passed away and responsibilities for beyond his years were thrust upon his shoulders. Before attending school each day he milked cows and delivered newspapers. This habit of being an early riser has carried over to his work in the Congress today.

This restlessness to get with the work at hand and get things done personally—has characterized a life of public service. He was elected to the House of Representatives of South Carolina in 1932, the same year I was elected a State Senator in that body. This state-wide public service first brought us together and we have been good friends since that time.

One of the first impressions I received of our honored guest back in those early days was that he possessed a deep sense of loyalty. He was not only loyal to his friends but to any organization to which he belonged.

I recall an incident during our first year in the State Legislature. The City of Columbia, our capital city, gave a barbecue for the lawmakers, and the legislator with whom MENDEL was rooming ate too much hash on this occasion. During the night he began to have nightmares and awoke shouting "There are Robbers in the House. There are Robbers in the House!" Hardly awake, but preserving that keen sense of loyalty I have just mentioned, MENDEL turned over and said, "Oh, no, there may be Robbers in the Senate, but not in the House."

It was in these early days in the South Carolina House of Representatives that MENDEL first exhibited that immensity of energy, devotion to a cause, scorn for those who despaired, and an abiding faith in America—those qualities that have made MENDEL's name a beacon of strength in these troubled times.

During that time, and to this day, he has been an admirer of another great South Carolinian, John C. Calhoun. He has lived by Calhoun's admonition: "The very essence of a free government consists of considering public office as a public trust, bestowed for the good of the country and not for the benefit of an individual."

He has also faithfully followed the challenge laid down for us all by Daniel Webster who said: "Let our object be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country."

Over the years I have worked with MENDEL on many matters. During this time he has been a source of inspiration, of wisdom, and above all, of faith that right and justice firmly maintained will triumph. His life style, his flamboyance, his wit, his intelligence, his personality are all unique in the annals of American politics.

One of the rarest things a man ever does is to do the best he can. Chairman RIVERS has always met that test. In my studied opinion, I can say that no man in America, including our Presidents, has done more for our national defense than L. MENDEL RIVERS.

This man has ably applied his qualities of leadership and determination to his role as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. In this role, and before as a Committee member under the Chairmanship of Carl Vinson, he has clearly left his mark on our defense establishment. He has fought long for a modern Navy; he is the father of the unchallenged airlift capability of our Air Force; he has fought harder for increased pay of our servicemen than any previous Chairman; and he is a strong advocate of providing the most modern tools for our foot soldiers.

Many defense programs which have become a reality were brought to fruition under his leadership. He championed the nuclear submarine when the Navy itself was full of doubters; he pushed forward with the C–130, the C–141 and the C–5A when the need for these aircraft was not recognized by many. He dedicated himself to a tremendous increase in the nation's military airlift capability; and today men and equipment can be quickly

deployed anywhere in the world to aid our allies and preserve our national security.

The B–1 bomber, the Navy's all purpose F–14, the Air Force's F–15 superiority fighter, and the Marine's vertical takeoff fighter, the Harrier, have all received his special attention.

All of these accomplishments, and many more, were possible because L. MENDEL RIVERS is a man of exceptional personal qualities. He is a man of courage, a man of action, and a true espouser of Americanism.

MENDEL is also a devoted family man. His wife, Margaret, a dedicated and intelligent lady, who understands Communism even better than her husband, has shared with him the demands of high office. They have reared three handsome children: Two daughters, Margaret Middleton Eastman, the mother of their two grandchildren; Lois Marion Rivers, a ladies' fashion designer in London; and a son. L. Mendel Rivers, Jr., a Phi Beta Kappa student, who is now working on his law degree at Georgetown University.

I am pleased that the Capital Air Force Association has seen fit to recognize MENDEL RIVERS on this occasion. It is rare that a man is properly recognized in his own time. The accomplishments of my distinguished colleague from South Carolina are such that his name has already been inscribed across the nation and the world. His portrait hangs in the House Armed Services Committee Room, a rare tribute for a man who still sits in the Chairman's seat. A bronze bust has been erected in his honor by his hometown of Charleston. In North Charleston there is a Rivers Avenue and the Rivers Postal Annex. A high school in Altus, Oklahoma bears his name. In Vietnam there is Rivers Boulevard. There is also Rivers Gate, Men-Rivers Park, and so-on.

A distinguished colleague, Rep. Philip J. Philbin of Massachusetts, has described MENDEL RIVERS as one who "never falters, never hesitates, never draws back, once he is sure he is right." It is that sense of duty—duty understood and faithfully discharged—which our Nation urgently needs in these tension filled times.

Some years ago, the title of a popular play summoned men to "Watch on the Rhine." It has been the singular achievement of L. MENDEL RIVERS to summon his fellow citizens for the past three decades to stand watch at the frontiers of national security on the land, on the sea, and in the air. The American people have reason to be grateful for his steadfast leadership.

America draws its real strength from men such as MENDEL RIVERS. The Poet Laureate of South Carolina, Archibald Rutledge, wrote a poem entitled "Our Land" which makes this point. He penned these words:

"We do not love our land because,
Her might can mold all human fate.
Her power has its source in us.
It is our love that makes her great."

The life of Chairman RIVERS has been guided by a deep and abiding love for his country. His life brings to mind the words of the great Winston Churchill as recited recently by the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham: "Never give in!" But Dr. Graham did not complete the statement made by that wise, old

British Statesman, and I offer it to you now, as it expresses better than I can, the philosophy of L. MENDEL RIVERS:

"Never give in! Never give in! Never, Never, Never, Never—in nothing great or small, large or petty. Never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense."

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the philosophy of a fighter. That is the philosophy of L. MENDEL RIVERS.

[From the Congressional Record, Aug. 12, 1970]

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON—REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

I am proud and honored to take part today in this salute to the distinguished and incomparable Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, L. MENDEL RIVERS. From personal observation, I can say that he is hardly effete.

I commend all of you who have come here today to honor Chairman RIVERS. I don't know how they got a hall big enough for the occasion, because if they just invited one representative of all of the organizations of which he is an honorary member, we could fill the biggest hotel in town. He is the only man I know who has an honorary degree from the International College of Dentistry.

I told him one time, "You're never going to practice dentistry on me."

And he replied, "That's all right. I'm never going to play golf with you."

But the Chairman and I do have a common interest in the press. In fact, we both have to stay in public office for the sake of the national economy. The country could not afford the unemployment that would result among columnists and editorial writers if Mr. RIVERS and I both left Washington.

Before proceeding any further, I would like to lay to rest the ugly, vicious, dastardly rumor that he is trying to move the Pentagon piecemeal to South Carolina. I have been to Charleston several times, and I have had it clearly explained to me that the military facilities so evident in that area are a testament of MENDEL RIVERS' unselfish willingness to allow his own First District of South Carolina to accept in the national interest military installations which just had to be put someplace. If there are any parochial interests involved, at least they do not encourage the North Vietnamese to continue their fruitless aggression.

When the Navy was desperate to find some place to put a Polaris repair facility, I am told, MENDEL RIVERS stepped forth and graciously volunteered Charleston, South Carolina.

When the Air Force simply had to find a place to put some of its C–141 airlift airplanes, MENDEL RIVERS again volunteered his home area.

When a home port was needed for the Atlantic Mine Force, again he came forward. While other Congressmen were fighting behind the scenes to prevent

congressional committees from cluttering up their districts with military installations, MENDEL RIVERS refused to lift a finger to block the construction of additional facilities in Charleston.

Even when it looked like Charleston might sink into the sea from the burden, MENDEL RIVERS' patriotic response was: "I regret that I have but one congressional district to give my country to—I mean to give to my country."

Now who can ask more of a Congressman than that?

On the serious side, the Chairman has even been credited by some commentators with getting the Navy shipyard established at Charleston and with having the Marine Corps Recruit Depot placed at Parris Island, South Carolina. I'm sure this doesn't bother him—especially around election time—but historically accuracy requires us to note that the Navy Shipyard was established in 1901, 4 years before MENDEL RIVERS was born. Parris Island was established in 1891, 14 years before he burst upon the southern scene. I have great faith in the Navy and the Marine Corps, but I don't think they were clairvoyant about the birth of the future Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

And in fairness to the Chairman, who has heard many jokes about his alleged aggressive attention to his home district, a check of the records will reveal that there are other congressional districts in the U.S. with more and larger facilities. The stories just read better when they're about a chairman. It is of such stuff that myths are made.

What is not a myth about this man we are honoring today is his deep sense of patriotism, his sincere dedication to the national defense of this country. I know of no one who stands more firmly behind the need for a strong American defense establishment or who is more determined to see that the guard we now maintain will not be dropped.

This is particularly important at a time when we are disengaging from a war in Southeast Asia and attempting to adjust our defense budget to a peacetime economy without sacrificing the ability to meet our worldwide obligations. We *must* strike a reasonable balance of requirements for our national security, pressing domestic needs, and the tolerance of our taxpayers in shouldering both burdens. The assistance of MENDEL RIVERS and those who follow his leadership in the Congress, is essential to the solution of this delicate problem.

Although the non-defense growth of our budget for the current fiscal year amounts to a 55 per cent increase since 1964—compared with a mere 7 per cent growth in the defense budget over 1964—there are sizable and influential elements in both houses of Congress who feel we have not gone far enough in reordering priorities. Fortunately, we have leaders like MENDEL RIVERS in the House and John Stennis in the Senate who will stand with the Administration and declare, "That's as far as we go. America's security demands we do no less."

Mendel Rivers has worked tirelessly, since coming to the Congress in 1940 to make the world a more peaceful place. For example, he has supported every effort to get Communism out of Southeast Asia, to get Russia out of the Middle East, and to get Senator Fulbright out of Washington. Many of the defense problems his committee copes with result from policies that came out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Chairman Rivers is accused of being a hawk on Vietnam and he doesn't deny it. He is always referred to as the "powerful" chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. It's not an inappropriate adjective, but his committee members say he runs a democratic organization—with a small "d" of course.

Mr. Rivers is one who invariably watches the sunrise from his desk in the Rayburn Building, and, by the time he gets home in the evening, the lights are on.

As a committee chairman, he sometimes drives aircraft technicians crazy. Airplanes are his hobby and when the Chairman starts talking about engine designations, thrust, aerodynamics, ranges, speed, lift capability, and drag effects, the witnesses who appear before his committee quickly realize they had better know the facts. The air mobility of our Armed Forces today is a living memorial to the efforts of Mendel Rivers.

Mendel Rivers knows that legislation is the art of compromise, and we in the Nixon Administration have sometimes felt the pressure of his bargaining. He has been well trained. He traces his training to three great universities—the College of Charleston, the University of South Carolina and Vinson College. He served on the House Armed Services Committee with the late Carl Vinson, along with a number of others who later achieved varying degrees of national prominence.

One of the names I recall is Lyndon Johnson, who was elected to a high office. At least, I think he was elected to high office. If I read a few more memoirs of Kennedy aides, I may find out he never existed at all.

One of the things that I admire so much about Mendel Rivers is his willingness to go to bat for the so-called Military-Industrial Complex. He has always had the courage to remind people that defense-oriented industry helped win World War II and that without it we would be in a real pickle today.

No man in Congress has done more to improve the Defense establishment and the people in it. Improved food, pay, clothing, shelter, medical care, promotions, equipment and bases have all received his personal attention. Every man in the armed forces is obligated to him for the automatic pay raises he receives.

Undoubtedly, of all the titles and honors he has received in a distinguished career, the one of which he is most proud is "Champion of the GI." And the GI's know he deserves it.

I will close with a true story that illustrates the point. Some of the troops returning from Vietnam recently under the Nixon Adminisration's withdrawal program were being interviewed.

"What did you pray for most when you were in Vietnam?" a young man was asked.

"I prayed that MENDEL RIVERS would live to be 150 years old because he is the one who really cares about us," said the GI.

Chairman RIVERS, it sort of sums up a feeling of the 2,000 of us in this room. We salute you, Sir.

NIXON TRIBUTE

The Distinguished American Award presented to the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS by the National Capital Chapter of the Air Force Association of the United States represents a salute to a great American. By every word, deed and action Congressman RIVERS has supported those protectors of America's traditions and freedom, the men of the Armed Services. Believing that the men and women of our military forces should be first class citizens, he has continually sponsored and supported legislation to improve their status as Americans. Extremely knowledgeable and continually interested in the importance of "balance of power" he has concerned himself foremost with the essential provisions of the Congress to continually enforce a constructive, modern Army, Navy and Air Force.

He has served more than 30 years on the United States House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee, the last 6 years as its Chairman. Representing the First District, South Carolina since the 77th Congress (1940), he has continually taken a positive stand on the need for a strong defense for world freedom. It is fitting that the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS be honored with this first Distinguished American Award.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. President, I heard with sorrow the remarks of the distinguished Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Thurmond) announcing the death of Representative L. MENDEL RIVERS of South Carolina. I have known Representative RIVERS as a fellow member of the American delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Parliamentarians Organization, now called the Atlantic Assembly. We served together on the Military Committee, he as vice chairman, and I as reporter, for 3 years. He rendered a great service to the committee.

The resolution adopted by the Atlantic Assembly this year calling upon European members to make larger contributions to NATO was drawn by Representative RIVERS. In past years, many similar

resolutions had been adopted but Congressman Rivers' resolution was unique because it provided for a number of ways in which NATO countries could meet their obligations to NATO—by force increases, by contributions to infrastructure, and financial contributions.

Those meetings lasted from 1 week to 10 days. Congressman Mendel Rivers gave to those meetings the full scope of his powers, and he was uniformly helpful and courteous to all members of the delegation and to the members of the military committee from other countries. He was always thoughtful and considerate of his staff.

Congressman Rivers was a fine Representative of South Carolina and of our country. He was a patriot who loved our country.

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, on the passing of Representative L. Mendel Rivers, I wish to say I served with him in the House for years. I knew him very well. He was one of the delegates on a number of occasions to the North Atlantic Assembly, where I am chairman of the political committee.

He was a remarkable man; he was very much more conservative in his views than I am in mine, but he always had a lively and interesting mind.

I wish to join the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Thurmond) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Cooper) in extending my profound sympathy. He died at a young age, as things are today. His passing is a matter of sorrow to me, and I hope the things we say in this Chamber today and which will be said in the other Chamber will bring some solace to his family. He was a man who had much understanding and he had a warm personality.

Tuesday, *December 29, 1970.*

Mr. CANNON. Mr. President, it is with a feeling of regret that I address remarks today in memory of our close friend and colleague, Congressman Mendel Rivers, whose untimely death Monday has saddened us all.

Congressman Rivers served with great distinction as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, the counterpart to the Senate Armed Services Committee on which I serve. During his 30 years

in Congress he worked steadily and with great vigor for the best weapons systems obtainable, and participated fully in the legislative process to make their acquisition possible. His efforts have helped insure that America will be militarily second to none.

He displayed a rare combination of keen interest and effective leadership in fostering necessary Department of Defense legislation. He understood and believed in the American political processes and displayed a broad knowledge in its practice.

Congressman RIVERS was courageous; but he had another characteristic I admired: he was tenacious. When he advocated something he believed in, he could not be shaken.

In short, MENDEL RIVERS was an able legislator, and we shall miss him.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on House Resolution 1319.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Muskie) laid before the Senate a resolution of the House of Representatives (H. Res. 1319), which was read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS, a Representative from the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That a committee of seventy-one Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. THURMOND, Mr. President, I send to the desk a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution will be stated.

The resolution (S. Res. 500) was read, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS, late a Representative from the State of South Carolina.

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate do now recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the resolution was considered and unanimously agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the second revolving clause, the Chair appoints the two Senators from South Carolina (Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Hollings) as the committee on the part of the Senate to attend the funeral of the late Representative RIVERS.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, if there be no further business to come before the Senate, I move, in accordance with the previous order, and pursuant to Senate Resolution 500, as a further mark of respect for the Honorable L. MENDEL RIVERS, late a Representative from the State of South Carolina, that the Senate now recess.

The motion was agreed to; and (at 9 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.) the Senate took a recess until tomorrow, December 30, 1970, at 9 a.m.

THURSDAY, *December 31, 1970.*

Mr HOLLINGS. Mr. President, A few of us of the same community who have experienced public office are in a position to know and appreciate the greatness of L. MENDEL RIVERS.

Three weeks ago, I had breakfast with the Congressman. He appeared hale and hearty. And today he is gone. This suddenness in passing was shock enough. But I have now received a greater shock; returning from the burial services in Charleston on yesterday I have just read in the New York Post of the same day the bitter article by Pete Hamill, entitled "No Sad Songs" calling RIVERS a common drunk. Mr. Hamill concludes:

He is gone and we are better off without him.

One can only feel pity for the hatefilled mind of Hamill. The thrust of his conclusions is that Mr. RIVERS' only attainment was seniority—and this was abused.

MENDEL was laid to rest near Gumville where he was born of the simplest and poorest of circumstances. He was never given anything other than the opportunity of America that we all receive. Taking this at its fill, MENDEL won respect and love in his district long before the seniority system made him chairman. I know at times that many wanted him to run for Governor—for the U.S. Senate—or have him serve in the Judiciary. All of these were at his fingertips. But, the people of the district each time persuaded him to stay on as Congressman.

There is no magic in seniority with the folks back home. In the past two elections, over a dozen chairman of committees of the Congress, plus the minority whip, have been defeated at the hands of their own electorate. In the House, you are measured by primary and general elections every 18 months and to say that the people of the first district selected a common drunk is an outrage.

We have many, many correspondents in Washington. I know of only one news column that has ever referred to MENDEL's drinking. The fact is that he did have a problem. But he controlled it—and this is to his credit. I have been with him socially and professionally on hundreds of occasions, both in the district, in our Nation's Capital and abroad. At no time did drinking interfere with MENDEL's duty. And, for Mr. Hamill to infer that only those of the military honored MENDEL because they had to—this is an outrage.

Billy Graham, who only last month spoke at the dedication of the L. Mendel Rivers Library at the Baptist College, appeared especially for the character and patriotism of the man. Certainly, Dr. Graham did not appear for a common drunk.

I wish Mr. Hamill could have seen the little people lining the streets and highway as the funeral cortege proceeded through Charleston, up into the county and over through Berkeley County on yesterday. Hardly a uniform—just people—workmen, repairmen, women—grateful citizens of all walks of life, standing in respect and love. They knew that MENDEL was a fighter—that he fought for the people of his district—that he fought for the military because no one ever claimed that they were overpaid. MENDEL was always trying to improve their pay—their living conditions—and to preserve their dignity. And, too, they realized that MENDEL was fighting always for the strength of his country.

It is said that when you come to the Congress you either grow or swell. MENDEL RIVERS grew. On many an occasion, he demonstrated

unknowingly to me that he knew way more about the equipment and material and logistics of our Armed Forces than anyone in Government. He learned this because he worked at it from early morning until late at night. He cut a lot of red tape and he made a permanent mark on this Nation's military.

I wish Mr. Hamill could have ridden back on the plane of House Members that contained most of the Committee on Armed Services. I listened to their conversations. It was apparent to me that no one on that committee knew the military nearly as well as MENDEL. To a man, they were agreeing that MENDEL would have been their chairman without a seniority system.

And, back home where there is no seniority, MENDEL was singularly the most loved and respected public servant of our time.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
IN THE
UNITED STATES SENATE

ADDRESS BY HON. STROM THURMOND

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. President, the death of Congressman MENDEL RIVERS of the First District of South Carolina was a great loss to the people of South Carolina and to the Nation. He was one of the most distinguished statesmen South Carolina has produced in her history.

Many tributes have been paid to MENDEL RIVERS. Less than a month before his death Admiral Rickover introduced both Congressman RIVERS and his lovely wife Margaret on the occasion of the keel laying of the *South Carolina* at Newport News, Va. In addition, after his death many moving and eloquent statements were made eulogizing this great man. I believe it is fitting that these editorials, articles, and other tributes made in honor of Congressman MENDEL RIVERS be published in the Congressional Record.

I ask unanimous consent that these statements, editorials and articles be printed in the Extensions of Remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

INTRODUCTION OF THE HONORABLE L. MENDEL RIVERS

(By Vice Adm. H. G. Rickover, U.S. Navy)

It is an ungrateful task to try to sum up a man's character in a few words, but in the case of MENDEL RIVERS much will have been said when I have stated that he is an American and a patriot, because he is one as much as the other, and he is both intensely.

I find it hard to put into words all that I have learned to admire in him. Many men have entered our Congress. The conventional descriptions—ambition, public service, chance, social ardor, eagerness for power—none of these seem satisfactorily applicable to MENDEL RIVERS.

There is no use trying to explain him by reducing a versatile man to one or two main talents. He cannot be judged in the way some people judge an eagle by noting how he walks on the ground. An eagle must be judged by its majestic flight into the sky.

He has been obliged to make his own way by his own abilities and enterprise, but the advantages in intelligence and ambition were given him by his

parents. He has used these well and has augmented them by his own ability and ambition. No smooth path of wealth or patronage was offered to him. Whatever power he has acquired has been grudgingly given. He has had to fight every mile of his road through life; nothing came easily to him, not even oratory in which he excels.

He is one of the great men of our Congress. He is dedicated to peace, but aware of the awesome responsibility our Nation bears in defense of our freedom. Where our national security is involved he is brave, resolute, stubborn. His legislative acts are heroic; they speak of struggle and triumph; they reflect his pragmatic ability.

No man possesses in so high a degree as he the peculiar awareness of military realities. His efforts in behalf of American security are tireless. He has a marvelous gift for stepping beyond the appearance of things, going beyond it, and penetrating to the very essence of the matter.

He speaks as a man of the people—a man for whom the deepest spiritual truth is approachable only through the heart and can be grasped only when embodied in the realities of this world. He does not believe that being serious means going about with a long face. He has always held calmness to be a form of virtue; it is in many cases an extremely difficult form of courage.

He is one of the most unintimidable men in the United States. He knows that a good leader is doing his job when half the people are following him and half are chasing him.

He has an old-fashioned and unqualified love for the United States. This has given him a sense of dedication, responsibility, and purpose. He has the fortitude to stand up to the illegitimate and illegal activity of a tiny minority bent on tearing down every institution we have built and which we cherish.

He believes in fulfilling what you are able to fulfill, rather than running after what you will never achieve; in striving to be as complete human beings as possible. That will give us trouble enough.

He believes in the God-given genius of certain individuals, and he values a society that makes their existence possible. He understands the chasm between men with knowledge who lack power and men with power who lack knowledge; men who are instructed but not educated; assimilative, but incapable of real thought; men who do not want to confuse the ideal with the real; and intelligent idlers who always set their sights high in order to alibi their idleness and demonstrate their intelligence.

He does not agree with many of the pseudo-intellectuals who are drowning their own words and suffocating in their own documents. Many of them are as ignorant as swans. He knows that we must abandon the prevalent belief in the superior wisdom of the ignorant.

He knows that some students of society and politics among our intellectuals have little contact with life as it is actually lived by most men; that they are more lucid as critics of existing society than as visionaries of a better one; that some of them seem to experience a vicarious pleasure in discrediting everything American; that in their seclusion they are constantly tempted to devise political constructions rooted firmly in mid-air—in which governments and

political authority are replaced by communes of free and equal individuals; in which society exists without repression, and domestic policies require no sanctions; a society in which diplomats always tell the truth and a foreign policy is pursued in which the wolf lies down with the lamb, and the leopard with the kid.

Mendel Rivers is aware that without a knowledge of history, we are left with nothing but baseless abstractions with which to compare ourselves; that we then judge the present by the standards of a mythical trouble-free dream world where all mankind is at peace. He believes that in spite of the recent triumphs of science, men haven't changed much, and in consequence we must still try to learn from history.

He knows that a person who is often praised must set stricter standards on himself. He holds a number of beliefs that have been repudiated by the liveliest intellects of our time. He believes that order is better than chaos, creation better than destruction. He prefers gentleness to violence, forgiveness to vengeance. He believes in courtesy, the ritual by which we avoid hurting other people's feelings. He thinks that knowledge is preferable to ignorance; human sympathy more valuable than ideology.

His effort is sincere and profoundly human, it shatters old servitudes, overthrows prejudices and idols, and rises little by little toward the light. He lacks any capacity for intrigue; he is innocent and straightforward.

He knows that no country has departed from its basic principles so much, in so short a time and without realizing it, as has the United States; that what we need is simplicity and what we can do without is romanticism.

He understands that if what is needful is to be done, we cannot depend on illusions, especially of an impossible good. A calamity can be brought about by persons of great good will. Too many such persons have set themselves up in the "grievance business." Their job is to find things that are wrong; then attempt to right them. If their efforts only make matters worse, they find something else wrong.

Mr. Rivers knows that the last war has been forgotten, erased from the collective American memory—the most devastating commentary history can render is to be forgotten because no one wants to remember.

He has named, numbered, and made perceptible, even to those who disagree with him, all the national verities that animate and sustain us, and that breathe in our blood.

He does his duty as if he were going to live forever, and casts his plans way ahead. He feels responsible without time limitation; the consideration whether he may or may not be around to see the results never enters his thoughts.

The day will come when this man, one of our great legislators and a prophetic thinker, will be recognized at his true value.

Introduction of Margaret Middleton Rivers

(By Vice Adm. H. G. Rickover, U.S. Navy)

When I asked Margaret Rivers what I might say about her, she said she was most proud of these three accomplishments:

a. When a senior in the Memminger High School, Charleston, she won the Mitchell Award for the best essay at the age of 17.

b. She is the mother of three wonderful children.

c. She is married to MENDEL RIVERS and this is her greatest pride. She is grateful to have had the good fortune of spending 32 happy and interesting years with this fabulous and fascinating man.

Now, there are many wives who might say similar things. But Margaret Rivers is not an ordinary wife, mother or woman. I have known her for a number of years and so I may be pardoned if I add a little more to her own meager description.

She comes from a famous southern family. One of her ancestors was Dr. Henry Woodward, the first English settler in what is now South Carolina. A pioneer in the truest sense of the word, he lived among the Indians and learned their culture. His friendship with them greatly helped the colony of Charles Town to withstand the rigors of colonialization a few years later. As American deputy for the Earl of Shaftesbury, the colony's most influential proprietor, Doctor Woodward introduced the culture of rice, which became a thriving industry. He also promoted the fur trade and helped extend it to the colony's western limits. He met his death in courageous defiance of the Spaniards.

Another illustrious forebear was Lois Mathewes Hall. When her husband, one of a group of Charleston patriots, was imprisoned by the British in St. Augustine, she stayed behind with her children and a sister who was married to Thomas Heyward, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Ordered to illuminate their house in celebration of English victories she refused. Neither penalty of imprisonment nor threats by the soldiery intimidated the two women. Their home, now known as the Heyward-Washington House, is being maintained by the Charleston Museum as an example of that city's early architecture.

Also among her forefathers were Huguenots who came to find religious toleration in the New World and stayed to fight courageously in the War of Independence and the War between the States.

Margaret Rivers comes of people who had courage, strength and determination. She has them too. She comes of people who had a sense of *noblesse oblige* and chivalry which means they set themselves high standards of behavior to others less fortunate. She has these too.

In the early days of our country, women and men worked together and worked hard to clear the land, to build a home, to grow food, to raise their children. The wife was the guardian of home and culture. Many of our great men were reared in this manner. Margaret Rivers is the modern day version of this feminine saga in the structure of America. Her three children, Margaret, Marion and Lucius bear witness to this. And by his devotion to and idealization of her, MENDEL RIVERS attests to this. Only those women who have the misfortune to be married to politicians can have any conception of the patience, understanding and fortitude she possesses.

She believes in the right and duty of each woman to total human responsibility. And also in the unity of man and wife which makes a marriage good and strong. She knows that to build a decent and humane society men and

women are needed who are aware and confident of themselves, as well as sensitive to the needs of others—who know how to preserve their individuality and respect the equal right of others to their own individuality.

[From the Charleston (S.C.) Evening Post, Dec. 26, 1970]

President Leads Nation in Mourning

From the mighty to the meek, from the White House to the riggers shop at the Charleston Naval Shipyard, Americans joined today to mourn the death of Congressman L. Mendel Rivers.

President Nixon led the mourners in a statement from the White House as South Carolina and Charleston went into official mourning in respect to the First District congressman.

Gov. McNair, who heard the news at his Berkeley County farm, ordered all state flags to half-mast, a move that was matched by Charleston's Mayor Gaillard who directed all municipal flags to be lowered to half-mast and requested all citizens to fly their residence flags in a similar manner.

One of the first telephone calls to the Evening Post today was from Colin Hale, an employee in the shipyard riggers shop. He asked that something be done to have the Navy flags lowered to half-mast.

From Washington, President Nixon described Mr. Rivers as a "patriot" who held unswervingly to the belief that the freedom that exists in the modern world is inextricably tied to the military strength of the United States.

He continued: "Throughout his career, Congressman Rivers held unswervingly to that belief. He fought for that belief in the Congress, in the country. No shifting national opinion, no amount of hostile criticism, deterred him from the course he deemed right for America. In his death I have lost a friend upon whom I could rely in times of great difficulty. South Carolina has lost one of the most distinguished men in her history and America has lost a patriot."

President Nixon's bi-partisan reaction was echoed locally as Fred Scott, chairman of the Charleston County Republican Party, commented: "On behalf of the Charleston County Republican Party, I express our deepest sympathy to the family, to the people of Charleston and South Carolina and of the United States at the loss of one of our greatest South Carolinians and Americans, Congressman L. Mendel Rivers. We are all deeply grieved to learn of his death and recognize the tremendous loss to us all."

Mayor Gaillard said: "I learned with extreme regret of the death of my personal friend and great American, Congressman Rivers. His presence will be missed by this community, state, nation, and indeed the free world. His voice will be missed in the halls of Congress, but his contributions and leadership will long remain with America.

"Congressman Rivers was the champion of the little man, never too busy to help him regardless of the type or size of the problem.

"His personality, his ability to communicate with world leaders, and his desire to serve his nation, all combined to make him truly one of America's great leaders.

"On behalf of all Charlestonians, I extend to his family and thousands of friends our sincere and heartfelt sympathy."

In Montreat, N.C., evangelist Billy Graham said: "I am deeply grieved and shocked at the death of my long-time friend, Congressman L. Mendel Rivers. He was my closest friend in the Congress. He was one of the most eloquent defenders of American freedom in the country. Deep in his heart he had great love and respect for God and the church. He attended our evangelistic crusades many times. The nation has lost one of its great leaders at a very critical time. I look forward to seeing him in Heaven."

McNair, who was born a short distance away from the Gumville (Berkeley County) birthplace of Mr. Rivers, said:

"It was with great personal sadness and grief that I learned of the passing of South Carolina's great statesman and leader. There is no way to measure in words the loss which this state and this nation have suffered on this day.

"No man brought this station more honor and dignity; no man served his country with greater love and dedication. This moment of tragic loss is shared by men of good will throughout the world, particularly the millions of American servicemen and their families who looked to Congressman Rivers as their leader and their champion.

"The cause of freedom for all citizens," McNair added, "was this man's unending goal and he pursued it with courage and vigilance. In the truest sense of the word, Mendel Rivers was a man of peace who understood the sacrifices which must be made to preserve and defend it."

And the man who will succeed Mr. Rivers as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said the South Carolinian's "dedication to the security and defense of this country was unlimited."

Rep. F. Edward Hébert, D-La., said: "The nation has lost a great American, and I have lost a great personal friend.

"Mendel Rivers was a fierce advocate in what he believed. His courage and determination coupled with his tenacity and forthrightness were the keystone to the many fights he fought for the country he loved.

"Few men of Rivers' stature pass our way, but having passed our way leave indestructible signs along the highway to remind us that there can be no compromise with principle and no faltering in the fight to keep this nation free and strong.

"It was my privilege to have entered the Congress on the same day as Mendel Rivers and to have cemented a friendship which has grown stronger with the passing years and given me the privilege of standing in a shadow ever-ready to assist him when he needed or demanded my help.

"Mendel Rivers is dead but the memory of Mendel Rivers will never die."

In Washington, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, with whose department Mr. Rivers' committee was most involved, said:

"I am shocked and grieved to hear of the untimely passing of Congressman L. Mendel Rivers. I had developed the utmost respect and admiration for him as a colleague during my years in the Congress. His wisdom and experience have continued to be a source of strength to me during my tenure as Secretary of Defense.

"The United States has suffered the loss of a great patriot and one who has worked ceaselessly to assure the security of this nation. His consuming interest in the adequacy of our armed forces has contributed immediately to their strength.

"Mendel Rivers' devotion to the cause of the individual serviceman and his sponsorship of legislation benefiting military personnel have added significantly to the morale of our armed forces. He was one of the first to display an active public interest in the welfare and treatment of our prisoners of war in Southeast Asia. Men and women in uniform have never had a more dedicated champion."

The Greater Columbia Chapter of the Association of the United States Army released a resolution today stating:

"We note with sorrow the untimely passing of L. Mendel Rivers. We acknowledge the outstanding personal and official support which he gave to the armed forces of the United States as well as his never-failing interest in the full readiness of our forces to cope with national and international strife and periods of upheaval.

"We further recognize with extreme regret, the passing of this great man and outstanding friend of the armed forces."

Gov.-elect John West said from his Columbia office:

"South Carolina has lost one of the greatest statesmen of all time. History will record a place for Mendel Rivers alongside Jackson, Calhoun, and Hampton. Our loss is irreplacable. I send by sympathy to the family of Mendel Rivers."

Harry M. Lightsey, chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party, said Rivers' death "was a great loss to the state, the nation and the world. His influence and guidance have provided direction and support to our military forces for many critical years."

"He loved his country," Lightsey said, "and especially he loved South Carolina. He supported his political party when he thought it was right, but was never wayward in his allegiance to it. In realizing our large loss, we must not overlook the personal loss to his family, and our sympathy is extended to them."

John E. Huguley, Charleston Trident Chamber of Commerce president, wired Mr. Rivers' family: The officers, members and staff of the Charleston Trident Chamber of Commerce wish to extend to you their deepest sympathy in your time of loss. What Congressman Rivers has done for his nation, state and city is immeasurable and his loss is one of the gravest we have suffered in this century.

[From the Charleston (S.C.) Evening Post, Dec. 30, 1970]

Rivers Is Lauded on House Floor

The dean of South Carolina's House delegation, Rep. John L. McMillan, yesterday led a prolonged round of eulogies in Congress to the late Rep. L. Mendel Rivers.

He was joined by other legislators and by House Speaker John W. McCormack of Massachusetts. Leaders of both parties joined in praise of the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee who died Monday in a Birmingham hospital.

McMillan's voice broke as he said: "It is beyond words for me to say how much I will miss him."

He continued: "It is not easy for me to speak about the passing of my good friend, since we have been just about as close as any two members could be during the past 30 years. Mr. Rivers' record will stand and be well remembered for its brilliance and integrity. He was a true statesman, an American who gave of himself to uphold the ideals upon which this country was founded."

Citing legislation introduced by Rivers on Dec. 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, that supported efforts to rescue American prisoners of war, McMillan commented on the congressman's firm stand on protection of servicemen.

He stated: "In his closing remarks that day, he said among other things, '. . . Mr. Speaker, I want the world to know that I would tell that crowd in Hanoi, you will either treat them with human dignity or some of you will not be here tomorrow.

" 'So far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, if I were the president of the United States I would deliver an ultimatum to this crowd and let them guess where the next blow was coming from'," McMillan quoted Rivers as saying.

He continued: "That was the kind of man he was. He believed in determining what was right and then standing up firmly for it."

McCormack said of Rivers: "He possessed an understanding mind and kind heart for his fellow human beings. A strong character? Yes, but a kind gentleman? Also, yes."

"He was one of the strongest public figures in the nation," said House Democratic Leader Carl Albert of Oklahoma.

The assistant House Republican leader, Rep. John Anderson of Illinois, said: "He was a man with whom it was possible to disagree but it was not possible to dislike him."

"He had such a strength of character and dedication to doing a job that his own health was secondary to what he had to do," said House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan.

The man who will succeed as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee Rep. F. Edward Hébert, D-La., said: "I walked in the shadow of his confidence and I never betrayed him. If he had listened to his doctors he would have gone to the hospital six months earlier and his chances of recovery would have been greater. But he saw a call to duty and he stayed on the firing line in the House."

The Patriot

U.S. Rep. L. Mendel Rivers will be remembered in many different ways by many different people, but in messages of tribute which have flowed from across the land since his death the word most used in eulogy has been "patriot."

His love of country and the devotion with which he defended and promoted its interests were the traits imprinted strongest in the minds of national and state leaders who mourned his passing. In condolences expressed by congressional colleagues there was absolutely unanimity of recognition of Mr. Rivers' singleness of purpose: to keep America strong to preserve the American way of life.

Awareness of that goal and of his strivings toward it was perhaps reflected best in the message from the White House. Rep. Rivers said President Nixon, was a "patriot who held unswervingly to the belief that the freedom that exists in the modern world is inextricably tied to the military strength of the United States. Throughout his career Congressman Rivers . . . fought for that belief in Congress, in the country. No shifting national opinion, no amount of hostile criticism deterred him from the course he deemed right for America."

Even in a changing nation which harbors elements who would deride patriotism as a virtue, the word "patriot" retains a pure meaning. It is applicable in an epitaph for L. Mendel Rivers, who rests now in a quiet churchyard close by his Berkeley County birthplace.

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 30, 1970]

McMillan Leads Eulogies for Rep. Rivers in House

Washington.—House members officially and emotionally mourned the death of Rep. L. Mendel Rivers D-S.C., Tuesday in a prolonged round of eulogies led by the dean of the South Carolina House delegation, Rep. John L. McMillan.

"It is beyond words for me to say how much I will miss him," said McMillan, his voice cracking. Leaders of both parties followed with praise for the late chairman of the House Armed Services Committee who died in a Birmingham, Ala., hospital Monday following heart surgery.

McMillan said:

"Mr. Speaker: We all are saddened to learn of the passing of our colleague and my good friend, Congressman Lucius Mendel Rivers. The state of South Carolina, the nation, and the entire world have lost a great leader.

"It is not easy for me to speak about the passing of Congressman Rivers, since we have been just about as close as any two members could be during the past thirty years. We represented adjoining districts which cover the entire coastal area of South Carolina where we were confronted with similar problems at all times.

"Congressman Rivers was always one of the first people I saw on arrival at the House Office Building between seven and eight a.m. Our parking spaces

were adjoining in the House garage, and I have never heard MENDEL complain concerning his strenuous 12-hour schedule each day or his health.

"Mr. RIVERS' record will stand and be well remembered for its forceful brilliance and integrity. He was a true statesman, an American who gave of himself to uphold the ideals upon which this country of ours was founded. He had a strength of character that could not be swayed by vigorous attempts to alter his ideals. And he answered his challengers with oratory, the likes of which few men today can muster.

"On Dec. 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Mr. RIVERS handled what was to be his last piece of legislation on the floor of the House, the resolution in support for efforts to rescue American prisoners of war in North Vietnam. He took a strong position, urging that the U.S. be resolute in protecting its military men and its heritage.

"In his closing remarks that day, he said, among other things, '. . . Mr. Speaker, I want the world to know that I would tell that crowd in Hanoi, you will either treat them with human dignity or some of you will not be here tomorrow. . . . So far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, if I were the president of the U.S., I would deliver an ultimatum to this crowd and let them guess where the next blow is coming from'.

"That was the kind of man he was. He believed in determining what was the right thing, and then standing up firmly for it.

"My hearfelt sympathies go out to his lovely wife and children. He was a devoted family man and I know what a void his passing will leave in their lives. I trust they will be sustained by their fine memories of him as one of our greatest statesmen and patriots."

"He possessed an understanding mind and kind heart for his fellow human beings," said Speaker John W. McCormack. "A strong character? Yes. But a kind gentleman? Also, yes."

"He was one of the strongest public figures in the nation," said House Democratic leader Carl Albert of Oklahoma.

"He was a man with whom it was possible to disagree, but it was not possible to dislike him," said Rep. John Anderson, R-Ill., assistant House Republican leader.

"He had such strength of character and dedication to doing a job that his own health was secondary to what he had to do," said House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan.

Rep. F. Edward Hébert, D-La., who is expected to succeed RIVERS as chairman, said: "I walked in the shadow of his confidence and I never betrayed him. If he had listened to his doctors he would have gone to the hospital six months earlier and his chances of recovery would have been greater. But he saw a call to duty and he stayed on the firing line (in the House.)"

Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn, D-S.C., said: "All South Carolinians mourn with us today. I believe we are all going to meet MENDEL RIVERS in Heaven."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

Charleston Officials Join Mourning For Rep. Rivers

(By Jack Roach)

Charleston's elected officials and political leaders joined national and state officials Monday in mourning the death of Rep. L. Mendel Rivers.

The First District congressman died Monday morning in a Birmingham, Ala., hospital.

S.C. Rep. F. Julian Leamond, chairman of the Charleston County House Legislative Delegation, and a close personal friend of Rivers said: "Death, as it must to all men, came Monday morning to Congressman Rivers.

"The passing of this great patriot and statesman leaves the entire free world poorer. As a lifelong personal friend of Congressman Rivers I am familiar with many of the long fights he won against strong opposition to insure the security of our nation."

James B. Edwards, Republican Party chairman for the First Congressional District, said, "America today has lost one of its greatest patriots and leaders, Mendell Rivers. Only yesterday I read his speech, 'The Soviet Threat', which he made recently on the House floor. It was one of the greatest speeches I have ever read. The congressman had sent it to me just prior to his going to the hospital.

"After the presentation of this speech, Congressman Hall of Missouri took the floor and hastened to associate himself with Rivers' remarks. Mr. Hall said, 'What you have said today can be construed neither hawkish, or dovish, but eaglish, that gallant and magnificent creature that symbolizes the strength and honor of this great nation'. With Congressman Rivers' passing, I am reminded of these remarks."

GAILLARD

Mayor J. Palmer Gaillard said, "I learned with extreme regret of the death of my personal friend and great American, Congressman Rivers. His presence will be missed by this community, state, nation, and indeed the free world. His voice will be missed in the halls of Congress, but his contributions and leadership will long remain with America.

"Congressman Rivers was the champion of the little man, never too busy to help him regardless of the type or size of the problem.

"His personality, his ability to communicate with world leaders, and his desire to serve his nation, all combined to make him truly one of America's great leaders.

"On behalf of all Charlestonians, I extend to his family and thousands of friends our sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

"I have ordered flags on all municipal buildings to be flown at half staff until after the funeral and I call upon all citizens of this community to display their flags at half staff in respect to this great American."

SCARBOROUGH

S.C. Sen. Robert B. Scarborough, chairman of the Charleston Legislative Delegation, said: "I was deeply shocked at the passing of my personal friend Congressman RIVERS. Charleston, South Carolina and the nation have lost a great leader and we mourn his passing. I'm sure his leadership ability will continue with us in the years ahead."

County Council Chairman Richard E. Seabrook said: "Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Congressman RIVERS' family at this very sad moment in their lives.

"Congressman RIVERS who was so well known and loved in our community and in the Armed Forces of our country was a man who, through his own initiative and intense love for his fellow man, came into national prominence as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

"To say we have lost a great man is indeed true, but we have lost more in the leadership of a man who dedicated his life to the defense of his country by fighting for the Armed Forces and the equipment needed by them. L. MENDEL RIVERS has left his mark, never to be erased, in the annals of the history of South Carolina and our nation.

"We shall sorely miss him and hope that his family will accept our sympathy in his passing."

Another close personal friend, Joseph P. Riley, local real estate man, said: "For as many years as I can remember we have been close associates even when I was a student at the University of South Carolina. We shared a building together here on Broad Street for some 30 years. He was the type of fellow who would call on his friends for advice even though he had already made a decision. He had his opinion but he would always ask for yours.

"He had nothing personal to gain. He deprived himself and worked only for the other man. His greatest ambition was to see that this country remained strong and not let any other nation take it over.

"The American boy and girl who wore his country's uniform was his first obligation as a congressman. His wife and children were his first concern but his country and his people were next."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

CONSTITUENTS REMEMBER RIVERS AS "PERSONAL FRIEND"

Constituents from across the First Congressional District in S.C. remembered the late Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS as a "personal friend to his people."

In Beaufort County, State Rep. Brantley Harvey Jr., said: "MENDEL RIVERS' death comes as a great personal loss and as a great loss to the First Congressional District and to Beaufort County which he has served so well." Beaufort attorney, Joab M. Dowling added: "The entire community is distraught and distressed and we want to express our love and bereavement to Mrs. Rivers and the family."

Another Beaufort state representative, James H. Moss, said: "Not only have we, the people of S.C., suffered a great loss but our entire nation has suffered a great loss with the passing of L. MENDEL RIVERS. He was a man of the people whose heart and mind were for the people."

The loss of the veteran Congressman meant the loss of a loyal, helpful friend in Jasper County.

"It's difficult to make any statement worthy of the man. He was one of the most outstanding congressmen of all time and a dedicated chairman of the Armed Services Committee. He was truly a loyal friend to all the counties in his district and at the same time, his profound concern encompassed his love for the whole state and the nation which he loved," said former Sen. Henry C. Walker.

Hampton County joined in mourning Rep. RIVERS with messages sent to the family from county officials saying "Congressman RIVERS was the greatest friend the county ever had," the message said. A message from the town of Hampton expressed all of the townspeople's sympathy to Mrs. Rivers and the family.

Allendale County echoed the sorrow of the loss of Rep. RIVERS as an "invaluable friend, most outstanding representative of the century," or as Wilmot Riley of the state executive committee said, he "cannot be replaced but his image will continue to live."

"Regardless of the party in power he could be depended upon to support measures for the security and welfare of the nation. He was a friend to all servicemen," added Carl O'Neal, a Fairfax farmer.

In Berkeley County, Sheriff John W. Hill termed the congressman "one of the greatest men I've ever known. He never got away from his people. I've never known a man in public life who thought of his people as RIVERS did."

"It is a great blow to the community as a whole. He was a personal friend of all the people he represented and he was willing to help anyone," said Algie Kennedy, Berkeley County clerk of court.

J. M. Williams, county treasurer, said: "We have lost a very great man in Rep. RIVERS and he will be awfully hard to replace."

From Florence County, Bill Davis, a long time friend of the congressman said: "The leadership of the free world has suffered a great loss, Congressman RIVERS accomplished much for military preparedness and person-

nel. He delighted in helping with the personal problems of his constituents and friends. This is a gray day for the history of S.C." In Dorchester County, Magistrate H. H. Walters described RIVERS as "very close to the people," and Treasurer C. M. Henley said: "RIVERS did more for South Carolina than any man could possibly do and I don't know of anything you can do to replace him."

From Colleton County, Clerk of Court Emily G. Baggett said: "If we ever had a friend, we did in MENDEL RIVERS."

Sheriff John I. Seigler said: "It's one of the greatest losses S.C. has suffered since the War Between the States. He was the father of South Carolina."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

RIVERS: AMERICAN PATRIOT AND STATESMAN

(By Wendy R. Tucker)

Images of Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS as an American partriot and statesman and a "beloved guy" emerged as military leaders in South Carolina mourned his passing Monday.

Leaders of all branches of the armed services from throughout the state spoke personally and for those under their command of the loss which his death means.

"He recognized the many dangers facing our country. He was willing to speak out and do something about this," said Rear Adm. Herman J. Kossler, Commandant of the Sixth Naval District and commander of Charleston Naval Base.

A man with major responsibilities for Naval activities in the Charleston area who was also personally acquainted with Rep. RIVERS for a number of years, Kossler said "not only we here, but the whole country is going to feel the loss of this great man."

Asked about the possible impact of RIVERS' death on the scope of Naval activities in this area, he replied that "we have one of the best bases on the East Coast, through the fine planning of the Navy and through his help."

He went on to say "I don't foresee this base ever being closed by the Navy," and that it has been "built up to such an important base at the moment, I'm sure we will always have it."

In predicting that the installation will "be here a long, long time," Kossler said it will stand as a monument to Mr. RIVERS' understanding of the need for a strong military, and a strong base here in Charleston as part of that."

Brig. Gen. Thomas B. Kennedy, commander of the 437th Military Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, spoke of how "everybody has admired this man for a long time, for a number of reasons—his courage, integrity, dedication to the security of our country."

Word of RIVERS' death brought a "great feeling of loss" at Charleston Air Force Base, he said, a feeling "that you had lost a friend, lost a champion.

"I think he was thought of so much by the members of the armed forces as being their representative . . . a worldwide representative of the men in uniform, regardless of rank or position," as well as a representative of the people in this area, he commented.

Kennedy spoke of how RIVERS was "fearless about doing what he thought was right," willing to "stand up for those things an awful lot of us think are terribly important—in the face of a lot of opposition."

Also acquainted with RIVERS while previously serving on the air staff in Washington, Kennedy recalled: "You could usually find him in his office at about 7 a.m. without much trouble."

RIVERS, he said, "understood the importance of history, and how once you understand history you can make decisions as relate to the present or the future on a sound basis. That is an essential part of knowledge, and was a characteristic of this man."

He also spoke of "the feeling he brought to everybody in the service that he was their congressman," and remarked "when people feel this way," it is an "unusual recognition that can only be earned through a lifelong performance."

Rear Adm. Charles N. Payne, Commander of Charleston Naval Shipyard, said: "The nation has lost a great American, the Congress has lost an outstanding leader, the Armed Services, both the civilian and military components, have lost a staunch supporter, and the citizens of South Carolina have lost a tried and true friend."

Saying RIVERS' career "reflects great credit upon the qualities of life found here in his native district," Payne said "he maintained a deep and personal concern and interest in every individual in his district."

He noted the congressman "materially assisted in improving the economic base of this area, and it was his great ambition that the Naval and military organizations located here be the best in the nation."

Having been present for RIVERS' first session as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Payne recalled he spoke of intending to "see that the committee carried out its mandate under the Constitution." Previously comptroller of the Naval Ships Systems Command, Payne recalled in observing RIVERS as chairman, "he certainly did carry that out."

Brig. Gen. Claire T. Ireland Jr., Vice Commander of the 21st Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., who preceded Kennedy as wing commander here, said: "America has lost a great American, a wonderful statesman and a true supporter of American ideals and beliefs."

Lt. Col. G. R. Hasty, commanding officer of the Charleston Army Depot, said: "The American serviceman and the citizens of our country were indeed fortunate to have had the privilege of knowing a genuine leader of men, and a statesman whose place in history will be among those held in high esteem."

Capt. Lemuel C. Sansbury, captain of Charleston port and commander of the local Coast Guard base, said he felt RIVERS' death is "definitely going to have an impact on the area—and on the country as a whole.

"He was a great American, a great patriot who upheld the Constitution the way it should be. He'll be a great loss, especially to the military."

Col. Evan W. Rosencrans, Commander of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, said: "The officers and men on the 354th . . . share in quiet sorrow the deep and personal loss of a faithful American patriot. Congressman RIVERS will always remain in our hearts, and our prayers are with his family."

Maj. Gen. O. F. Peatross, Commanding General of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, also speaking for the Marine Air Station at Beaufort, said: "Congressman RIVERS was an outstanding chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and a true friend and benefactor of all American servicemen."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

SOUTH CAROLINA LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE TO REP. RIVERS

COLUMBIA.—South Carolina officials praised Rep. L. MENDEL RIVERS, D-S.C., Monday as a man of peace and a person who did more for national defense than presidents.

Flags were lowered to half mast across the state in honor of RIVERS who died Monday morning of heart failure.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, a Republican, described RIVERS, a Democrat, as one of the greatest spokesmen for national preparedness.

"No man in America including our presidents has done more for our national defense than MENDEL RIVERS," Thurmond said. "He stood watch for these past three decades at the frontiers of our national security, his accomplishments were great and our nation is poorer by reason of his death."

Gov. Robert E. McNair said there is no way that the nation can measure its loss caused by the death of RIVERS, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

"No man served his country with greater love and dedication; no man brought to his state more honor and dignity," the governor said.

McNair said the death of RIVERS is mourned throughout the world and particularly by servicemen and their families.

"The cause of freedom for all citizens of the world was this man's unending goal and he pursued it with courage and vigilance," the governor said. "In the truest sense of the word, MENDEL RIVERS was a man of peace who understood the sacrifices which must be made to preserve and defend it."

McNair, who proclaimed the days until the funeral an official period of mourning, said RIVERS served his state with "unequaled effectiveness and distinction."

McNair said few men in the history of South Carolina have contributed more meaningfully and more directly to the overall welfare and benefit of all the people.

"He served more than a single congressional district, more than a single state, indeed more than one nation," McNair said. "He was a symbol to all the world that this nation believed in freedom, and had the integrity to defend it where necessary."

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., said RIVERS offered the nation an enviable record of public service which reflected a deep belief in the American dream.

"Mr. RIVERS had the courage of his convictions and never failed to stand up for his beliefs even when they were unpopular," Hollings said.

Hollings described RIVERS as a man who had "faith in God and in the future of our country."

Rep. W. J. Bryan Dorn, D-S.C., called RIVERS one of the greatest leaders in modern history.

"He was devoted and dedicated to the cause of peace," Dorn said. "He believed that peace could only be obtained through strength and that weakness invited aggression and a war."

[From the News & Courier (Charleston, S.C.), Dec. 29, 1970]

FOR THE LITTLE MAN, IT WAS A PERSONAL LOSS

(By Miles B. Gwyn)

"The enlisted man will never find anybody who will stick by him the way he did. You might say he was the patron saint of sailors."

An enlisted man, first class electrician John H. Hansbrough from Shenandoah, Va., was expressing a sentiment heard time and again yesterday at the Charleston Naval Base as the death of Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS began sinking in.

For the little man, the hard hats and white hats, the loss of Rep. RIVERS was a personal loss.

Senior chief signalman Bobby J. Hodge, a 16-year Navyman, said, "Most military men are justifiably concerned. Who is going to look after us now?"

Senior chief yeoman Earl Prouse, a sailor for the past 28 years, agreed. "He was the best friend we ever had in Congress," he said.

A third class sonarman also termed RIVERS the best friend the Navy ever had. "He looked out for the enlisted man more than anybody else," he said.

RIVERS for the past seven years the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, died early Monday in Birmingham.

In the shipyard the civil service workers were equally set back by RIVERS' death.

James Grayson, president of the shipyard's Metal Trades Council, knew RIVERS personally for many years. Yesterday Grayson recalled an incident that typifies RIVERS to defense workers across the country.

"I remember one time in 1964 the yard was slated for a 'rif' (reduction in force). A group of us went to Washington, saw RIVERS and discussed the situation. RIVERS called Vinson (Carl Vinson, then chairman of the House Armed Services Committee) and said, 'Carl, I want to see President Johnson—now.'

"Then he told us to come back at 2 p.m. When we went back he told us to go on back to Charleston, that a ship would be putting in for enough work to reduce the 'rif.' And he told us we had better hurry or the ship would beat us there."

It was this personal contact and concern that endeared RIVERS to military and civil service people.

"I never had any trouble getting in touch with MENDEL RIVERS," Grayson said. "I've known a number of men who got in touch with him about a beef they had. They always got a quick response."

R. M. Lewis, president of the American Federation of Government Employes, Local 1864 at the shipyard, had a similar story to tell.

Lewis was a Citadel student in 1947, thanks to the G.I. bill. He was having trouble getting GI insurance until someone suggested he contact MENDEL RIVERS. He wrote the congressman, got a prompt reply and shortly thereafter got his insurance.

"He will be deeply missed by all of us," Lewis said. "We can be proud to be civil service workers."

What about the future, now with no apparent "patron saint."

"I don't think the shipyard will suffer in any way," said Grayson. "I think RIVERS' goal was to make this the greatest shipyard in the country, and the employes will continue to make this the best in the country in honor of RIVERS."

Cecil H. Wiley, president of the Planners, Estimators and Progressmen's Assn., Local Eight said, "I feel that this shipyard, South Carolina and the nation have lost one of their greatest statesmen, and, as a result, a loss to the entire world. The best way that we can honor his name and memory is to carry on in the traditions he had initiated and strive even harder to really have zero defects in all our work."

Elsewhere in Charleston's military establishment, the response to RIVERS' death was the same.

"I think we have lost a great man. He has been good to everybody. He was never too busy to lend a helping hand."—Army Depot harbor master Marion J. Schwartz.

"He was a serviceman's serviceman. It will take years to replace him so that the serviceman will continue to have a voice in his own matters."—Master Sgt. Charles E. Smith, base facilities.

"He was a big man that was never too busy to get involved with the problems of the enlisted man."—Chief Master Sgt. Dezere L. McQueen, 437th Military Airlift Wing.

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

"Mendelisms" Recall a Famous Wit

The style and inimitable wit of Mendel Rivers marked every facet of his flamboyant career in Washington. Here are a few of the more memorable "Mendelisms" that associates recall:

When conservative citizens in Charleston criticized Rivers for not following Strom Thurmond's bolt to Barry Goldwater in 1964, he replied: "I had my bolt (to the Dixiecrats in 1948) and all it got me was that my Navy yard was desegregated."

When a reporter met Rivers in 1964, the congressman opened the interview by casually tossing a pearl-handled Derringer onto his desk. He told the stunned newsman that he kept the weapon for protection against muggers who he said abounded in Washington.

When Rivers opposed President John Kennedy's Cuban policy and took the floor to urge an invasion of Cuba, he prompted a telegram from 150 Marines at Camp LeJeune. The telegram assured the congressman of the Marines' "willingness to follow you—repeat follow you—into Cuba." Rivers, who never took himself too seriously, gave the wire to newsmen and enjoyed a laugh at his own expense.

When Rivers described his early career in semi-professional baseball to congressional colleagues he boasted of "the highest batting average in disorganized baseball."

In 1964 when a witness before Rivers' committee got himself trapped in a hopeless position and asked if he could rephrase his remarks, the congressman said, "You go ahead and clear your conscience as much as you can."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

Long-Time Friends Remember Rivers

(By Joan L. Hitt)

"He was my idea of a statesman" . . . "The most colorful and capable personality I've ever known". . ."He was truly a friend of the service". . ."We came up together, I knew him when he was a little man."

These were among the remarks and reactions received from several long-time military friends of Congressman L. Mendel Rivers in Charleston yesterday.

Gen. Mark Clark, former chief of Allied Forces in Korea and president emeritus of The Citadel, said he had known him for almost 17 years, "ever since I came to Charleston".

"Mendel was a very dear friend of mine and I admired him for many reasons, particularly for his staunch defense and concern for the security of my country. I was asked by him over the years to do several military jobs

for his House Armed Services Committee and saw his dedication and understanding of the necessity of a strong America," the general said.

He spoke of a trip to the Far East that he took with Mr. Rivers several years ago which included a visit to Vietnam. "I went as the military advisor to the House Committee, all of whom went on the trip. We went all over Vietnam and it was a joy to see the GI's, the young officers and the senior commanders greet and welcome him for they knew that he, above anyone else in America, was deeply interested in their own little problems. The love of the military men was reflected in every place we went", Clark said.

"He was my idea of a statesman. A man who staunchly advocated those things that were good for his country regardless of their impact upon his own future. He will be sorely missed by Charlestonians, by South Carolinians and by all Americans," he concluded.

Col. Edward Foxworth, the senior Marine officer in this area and professor of Naval Science at The Citadel, remembered that when he was a cadet at The Citadel and playing football that Rivers used to come down on the bench and talk to him. "He always made me feel as though he was personally following my career," Foxworth said.

"His death has saddened the entire Marine Corps, both the officers and the enlisted men. We hope that those things which he has done for us we can uphold in the future."

"Mendel should be given the lion's share of the credit for establishing the Naval-Marine ROTC program here at The Citadel as of July 1st of this year. Now all four services are represented on campus. There were so many colleges that wanted this unit and he had an awful lot to say about its being established here," the newly appointed head of the program said.

"He was truly a friend of the service and will be sorely missed," Col. Foxworth said.

Gen. James Duckett, president of The Citadel, knew Rep. Rivers for more than 40 years. "We grew up together and I have always found him to be an outstanding American proud of his state and the Charleston area.

"He was always interested in the American who wanted to defend his country. We have lost one of the greatest of our leaders and his presence will be missed by all of us who loved him."

Gen. Duckett noted that The Citadel had honored Rivers with an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1959.

Brig. Gen. Franklin S. Henley, USAF (ret.) former commander of the 1608th Air Transport Wing, now the 437th Military Airlift Wing, described him as "the most colorful and capable personality it's ever been my pleasure to know."

"I was extremely unhappy to hear of his passing. Mendel was one of the greatest fans the military ever had. He's going to be greatly missed not only in this country but around the world . . . it's an irreplaceable loss."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

They Dedicated Their Schools . . . Their Streets . . . Even Their Homes to the Silver-Haired Congressman

L. Mendel Rivers' name has been indelibly stamped across the face of the earth by grateful supporters who dedicated their schools, their streets, even their homes to the silver-haired South Carolina congressman.

Whenever there are American servicemen, there is apt to be something named for the hawkish chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

In Charleston a section of Highway 52 from Five-Mile Viaduct to the Berkeley County line became Rivers Avenue in 1948.

A Navy housing development near Hanahan also bears his name—MenRiv Park. The Charleston Air Force Base dedicated Rivers Gate several years ago.

Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam has its Rivers Avenue. There is another in St. Stephen.

The Baptist College at Charleston dedicated its new L. Mendel Rivers Library earlier this year and the Falcon elementary school, near a military base in Altus, Okla., was renamed for Rivers in April.

North Charleston has its Rivers Annex Post Office, and a hunting and fishing lodge on Goat Island near Summerton has a Rivers Room in the restaurant.

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

Family Establishes Memorial Fund for Research

The L. Mendel Rivers Memorial Fund has been established by his family for heart surgery research at the University of Alabama Medical Center where Rivers underwent open-heart surgery Dec. 11.

A family statement said the fund is for "those friends who may want to remember him in a special way." Contributions to the fund may be sent in lieu of funeral remembrances to the Department of Surgery, University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, Ala. 35233.

Contributions also may be made, according to the family statement, to the L. Mendel Rivers Library at the Baptist College at Charleston.

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 29, 1970]

Services Mourn "Champion"

Laird: "The United States has suffered the loss of a great patriot"

Flags flew at half-mast in military bases across the nation Monday in silent salute to Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, the man armed servicemen had called "our champion."

But Americans of all vocations and all walks-of-life joined in nationwide mourning for the white-maned South Carolina Democrat, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who died early Monday morning.

President Nixon said: "I have lost a friend upon whom I could rely in times of great difficulty. South Carolina has lost one of the most distinguished men in her history and America has lost a patriot."

Nixon said that throughout his career RIVERS "held unswervingly to the belief that the freedom that exists in the modern world is inextricably tied to the military strength of the United States."

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird said that through RIVERS' death "the United States has suffered the loss of a great patriot and one who has worked ceaselessly to assure the security of this nation."

Evangelist Billy Graham said in a statement from his home in Montreat, N.C., he was "deeply grieved and shocked at the death of my longtime friend."

"He was one of the most eloquent defenders of American freedom . . . and I look forward to seeing him in Heaven," Dr. Graham said.

"Deep in his heart he had a great love and respect for God and the church. He attended our evangelistic crusades many times."

Rep. F. Edward Hébert, the Louisiana Democrat in line to succeed RIVERS as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and who entered Congress the same day as RIVERS in 1941 said of his longtime friend: "His dedication to the security and defense of this country was unlimited."

Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., himself hospitalized with a respiratory infection, dictated a statement praising RIVERS' "far-reaching understanding of the operations of the Defense Department."

"No man ever lived who was more wholeheartedly dedicated to the defense of this nation than MENDEL RIVERS. Those of us who are convinced that a strong defense is our main hope for continued freedom and peace have lost a champion."

Alabama Gov. Albert Brewer said RIVERS had shared "major credit for the strong defense posture of our nation."

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said RIVERS' leadership as chairman of the Armed Services Committee was an inestimable source of strength to the cause of American national security. His tenacity of mind and spirit served the American people during a prolonged period of international conflict and crisis.

"MENDEL RIVERS was a dedicated soldier in the ranks of public service. He was a patriot whose loss will be deeply felt by his fellow Americans."

Rep. Carl Albert, D-Okla., majority leader of the House, said RIVERS' death removed from the House "One of its most brilliant and talented members."

Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said RIVERS "dedicated himself to ensuring that his nation and countrymen could enjoy the blessings of freedom and security."

[From the Lancaster (S.C.) News, Jan. 12, 1971]

Rivers Had Great Feeling for Underdog—Richards

(Editor's Note: South Carolina produced two of the most powerful men in the U.S. House of Representatives in recent years, James P. Richards of Lancaster and the late L. Mendel Rivers of Charleston. Richards, the Fifth District Congressman from 1933 until he retired following the 1956 session, chaired the powerful Foreign Affairs Committee of the House for several years. His longtime friend, Congressman Rivers, was, of course, chairman of the Armed Services Committee at the time of his death in late December.

(Charles M. Smith, Jr., an intern reporter at The Lancaster News talked with Mr. Richards the day after the former congressman attended the funeral of Congressman Rivers in Charleston. Smith's article is delayed because he had to return to his college for three days last week. His interview with Mr. Richards follows.)

(By Charles M. Smith, Jr.)

A recent interview with a former colleague and friend of Congressman Mendel Rivers reveals some admirable traits of the congressman the public rarely had the opportunity to see.

Congressman James P. Richards enjoyed a friendship with Rivers that began in 1940 when Mr. Rivers was elected to the U.S. Congress.

Richard recalls Congressman Rivers as being a "very unusual character" with endless drive and determination. According to Richards, Congressman Rivers put in a full day's work and spent many nights working overtime in his office. Congressman Rivers, declared Richards, "had a great feeling for the underdog. Congressman Rivers was an underdog himself in his early life and this enabled him to have sympathy for those who had to struggle and may account for the reason so many enlisted men could readily identify with him," said Richards.

Richards went on to characterize Rivers as an emotional person with strong likes and dislikes.

"However, once you became his friend," Richards said, "he never turned his back on you."

When asked if Congressman Rivers wasn't using his hawkish views and his position as head of the powerful Armed Services committee as a method of obtaining more defense installations for the Charleston area, Richards responded by pointing out that looking after the welfare of one's constituency "is an obligation of all congressmen."

Furthermore, Richards felt that these defense installations Rivers had acquired for the Charleston area would probably have been built elsewhere.

Elaborating on Rivers' views regarding war policies and national defense, Richards classified Rivers as a hawk. He said that Rivers was a "devout disciple of General Douglas MacArthur's policy that there is no substitute for victory."

Rivers felt by maintaining a superior national defense America would never have to worry about an aggressor, said Richards.

In his attitude toward war, Richards implied that Rivers' reasoning suggested that America win her wars quickly with whatever means necessary was to prevent the suffering caused by war rapidly, rather than let it drag out over an extended period of time.

At the climax of our conversation, Richards said many people attacked Congressman Rivers' ideas regarding national defense because he was misunderstood, "but my friend always acted in what he felt was the best interest of his country."

[From the Allendale (S.C.) County Citizen, Dec. 31, 1970]

Allendale County Mourns Mendel Rivers' Death

Allendale Citizens joined the state and nation in mourning the loss of South Carolina's First Congressional District Congressman, L. Mendel Rivers, distinguished statesman and chairman of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee.

Allendale County echoed the sorrow of the loss of Rep. Rivers as an "invaluable friend, most outstanding representative of the century," or as Wilmot Riley of the state executive committee said, he "cannot be replaced but his image will continue to live."

"Regardless of the party in power he could be depended upon to support measures for the security and welfare of the nation. He was a friend to all servicemen," added Carl O'Neal, a Fairfax businessman.

One telegram, sent from the Allendale County Courthouse and signed "Allendale County Officials and citizens" expressed sympathy of all the people of Allendale County and read in part, "America has lost one of its greatest patriots, and Allendale County, one of its most loyal and devoted friends, a man who stood ever ready to be of service to all and every worthwhile endeavor."

Mrs. Rivers and family were sent telegrams of sympathy by the Mayors for the towns of Allendale, Fairfax, Sycamore and Ulmer and by H. W. Priester, Jr. as president of the South Carolina Municipal Association.

[From the Beaufort (S.C.) Gazette, Dec. 31, 1970]

Citizens Express Grief Over Loss of Rep. Rivers

In addition to national leaders, many distinguished citizenry, both military and civilian, statewide and local, expressed their grief at the loss of Rep. L. Mendel Rivers.

Following are some comments by individuals who tell in their own way how Rep. Rivers' death has touched their lives, as well as their predictions on the long-range effects of his passing:

Sen. James M. Waddell, Jr.: "We start the new year with grief in our hearts for the loss of a great patriarch and American. L. MENDEL RIVERS was recognized as a leader of the freedom-seeking people of the world.

"He was not only friend and leader of this country and state, but also of Beaufort County. I know of no one who has contributed so much to the welfare of Beaufort County. His help and leadership will be sorely missed."

Maj. Gen. Oscar F. Peatross, speaking for the Marine commands in Beaufort:

Maj. Gen. Peatross: "His presence in Congress will be sorely missed, not only by United States military men, but by millions throughout the United States and the free world."

Don Perry, president of the Beaufort Jaycees, and speaking in their behalf said:

"The Beaufort Jaycees would like to publicly express their deep sorrow to the family of L. MENDEL RIVERS during their bereavement.

"L. MENDEL RIVERS was truly a great leader and a man who believed in the plight of the young men of tomorrow, searching for his purpose in life.

"The Beaufort Jaycees say farewell to MENDEL RIVERS, a statesman, patriot and a great American."

Pvt. William Johnson of Woodburn, Oregon whose father is an Air Force career enlisted man: "This man stood many times alone for the serviceman and his welfare."

Pvt. Frederick Proeschel of Brooklyn, N.Y.: "President Nixon has lost a great supporter in his present drive to obtain an honorable peace in Vietnam—something a great number of servicemen are working far."

Pfc. Paul Tammen: "Looking at it on an economical aspect, his death means a general loss in wage and housing for military personnel."

DI Sgt. Donald Schmidt: "MENDEL RIVERS did as much if not more than any other man could have done in his position. His death is a great loss to every military man on active duty today."

DI Sgt. George Steele: "Every serviceman held a vast amount of respect for MENDEL RIVERS. Even though he was not from my state, MENDEL RIVERS was a representative of mine because he fought for the rights of all servicemen. His death is a tragic loss."

G. G. Dowling, Jr.: "As MENDEL's 1968 District Campaign Manager, as well as longtime personal friend, the two things that impressed me most was the man's humanity and sense of humor. His humor would destroy any tension. He always had to hear both sides of an issue, but he always stood on the side of patriotism and his country. I felt real close to him and miss him as a personal friend."

Capt. R. G. Williams, commanding officer of the United States Naval Hospital: "The nation has lost a true patriot, South Carolina has lost a truly distinguished citizen and statesman, and the military and civilian members of the armed forces have lost their best friend.

"We at the Beaufort Naval Hospital will always treasure two quotes made when Chairman Rivers recently autographed two pictures made at the groundbreaking 24 years ago. In one, he refers to '. . . our hospital', and the other pays tribute 'to the fine men and women of the Navy Medical Corps who have fulfilled my dream for the Beaufort Hospital'. God rest his soul."

Brantley Harvey, Jr. "Mendel Rivers' death comes as a great personal loss, and as a great loss to the First Congressional District and to Beaufort County which he has served so well."

Joab M. Dowling: "The entire community is distraught and distressed and we want to express our love and bereavement to Mrs. Rivers and the family."

James H. Moss: "Not only have we, the people of South Carolina suffered a great loss, but our entire nation has suffered a great loss with the passing of L. Mendel Rivers. He was a man of the people whose heart and mind was for the people. To Mrs. Rivers and her family go our heartfilled sympathy."

W. Brantley Harvey, Sr.: "In the loss of Congressman L. Mendel Rivers, this county, the state, the nation and to the greatest extent, the world, suffers the loss of an honorable and valuable man in the fight for the peace and security of the world."

J. E. McTeer, Sr.: "An irreplaceable man, we were friends from the beginning. He cannot be replaced as far as Beaufort is concerned."

William J. Firth: "The Navy League has lost one of its greatest friends."

Leroy H. Keyserling: "L. Mendel Rivers was a personal friend of mine for over 35 years, and not only have I lost a dear friend, but Beaufort and the nation is poorer for his passing.

"Only once in perhaps 100 years does a man of his caliber come along. He was a leader and statesman in every respect who always had the best interest of the people at heart, regardless of race, color, or creed."

DeLacy E. Shuman: "Congressman Rivers has been my longtime friend for more than 30 years. I was one of his campaign managers when he first ran for Congress in 1940, when many people gave him little or no chance to be elected. But I had faith that the silent majority would help put him in Congress.

"I joined him as his executive assistant after he had been in Congress for two years, and remained as his chief of staff for 20 years. We fought the battle of Capitol Hill together. Even though I left Washington after 20 years, I never left Congressman Rivers and he never left me. We had remained close personal friends over the years.

"His burning desire to serve all people caused him to be a man on the go at all times. He did yeoman service to the district, state, nation and the world. His presence among us will be sorely missed. I am deeply grieved by his untimely passing which is a great personal loss. He may be succeeded but will never be replaced. May God's richest blessing be upon him in the great beyond."

[From the Columbia (S.C.) State, Dec. 29, 1970]

Rivers Devoted Energies to Job at Hand

Rep. Lucius Mendel Rivers was a man who devoted all of his enormous energies to the job at hand.

"This is the only opportunity I'll ever have to do something for my country," Rivers said when he was named chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in 1965. "I'm going to do the very best I can. The time passes awfully fast."

He was born Sept. 28, 1905. His father raised some cotton and some corn and ran a turpentine mill, occupations that were not uncommon in the Hell Hole Swamp area around Gumville, S.C.

When his father died about the time he was in the second grade, he had to take on a larger share of the farm chores.

Soon after his father's death, his mother moved the family to a farm 10 miles north of Charleston, where he regularly got up at 4 a.m., milked the cows, delivered newspapers and caught a trolley for high school in Charleston at 7:45 a.m.

He worked at a variety of jobs before getting regular summer work—and the reputation of a long-ball hitter—with the semi-professional General Asbestos and Rubber Co. baseball team. Rivers batted about .350 with the club.

Rivers passed the S.C. bar examination in 1932 after studying at the University of South Carolina. He was in the state legislature from 1933 to 1936.

Rivers then went to Washington as a special attorney in the Justice Department. He was elected to Congress in 1940.

He soon became a protege in what was known as "Vinson University," named for former Rep. Carl Vinson, D-Georgia, whom Rivers succeeded as Armed Services chairman.

One of his earliest successes was not in military legislation but in getting the tax off margarine, which was made from cotton seed oil, a product of his district. He made so many speeches on the subject that he got the nickname—"Oleo Rivers."

He bolted the Democratic Party in 1948 to support Sen. Strom Thurmond, the Dixiecrat candidate for president. Rivers actively backed Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower for the presidency in 1952.

Rivers refused to follow Thurmond's bolt to GOP candidate Barry S. Goldwater in 1964 and told Charleston critics: "I had my bolt—and all it got me was that my Navy yard got desegregated."

A typical day for the inordinately early riser usually started shortly after 4 a.m. He never failed to reach his office after 7 a.m. and seldom left it before 7 or 8 p.m.

He usually scanned Washington and South Carolina newspapers and dictated letters for his secretaries before their arrival at 9 a.m.

Most nights RIVERS headed straight home from the office, but occasionally he yielded to pressure to attend Washington social functions—usually those with a military flavor.

But most of the time it was home to read, watch television and sometimes go to bed as early as 9 p.m.

There is an old saw that Charleston floats its economy on the Ashley, the Cooper and the Mendel Rivers. And it has also been said that the port city would sink into the sea if RIVERS put another military base nearby.

RIVERS boasted he was responsible for 90 per cent of the military installations in South Carolina. And he has also boasted that he has made a lot of millionaires by doing so.

In the tri-county Charleston area alone, the payroll this year for active duty and civilian employes at military installations will total $329.6 million, representing 35 per cent of the economic buying power of the area.

A facet of RIVERS that never received the publicity of his pro-military interest was his support of many anti-poverty programs.

He supported moves to liberalize the federal food stamp program, which he voted for at its inception. He even went along with much—but certainly not all—of Lyndon Johnson's poverty programs.

When it came to racial issues, many young blacks considered RIVERS a racist although others had faith in him.

William Sanders of Charleston, vice chairman of the black-oriented United Citizens Party, said in a recent interview that he personally considered RIVERS a racist and "a lot of younger blacks also share that view.

"But the black community itself has got a lot of faith in MENDEL," Sanders said. "He's done a lot of things for Charleston, and I don't fight that.

"He has really helped blacks make more money, not only in industry but in the armed forces. We have a lot of boys from this district in the service," Sanders said.

Perhaps some insight to this side of the usually right-wing Democrat can be garnered from his statement:

"I had an awfully hard time when I was a young fellow. I knew poverty like nobody else in the South Carolina delegation. Whenever I can help the man in the street, I'll do it."

[From the Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, Dec. 29, 1970]

GEORGIA LEADERS MOURN RIVERS

(By Duane Riner)

Gov. Lester Maddox, Sen. Richard B. Russell and former House Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Vinson of Milledgeville were among Georgia leaders who mourned the death Monday of Rep. L. MENDEL RIVERS, D-S.C.

Maddox said he was closer to the South Carolinian than any Georgian in Congress.

"I regarded him as one of the most loyal, able and patriotic men ever to serve in the U.S. Congress," Maddox commented.

Maddox said he has "a number of friends" in Washington, "but I never had one from Georgia or any place else any closer to me than MENDEL RIVERS."

The Armed Services Committee chairman, according to Maddox, "helped to protect Georgia military installations because of his love for the people of this state."

Vinson, whose decision not to seek reelection to Congress six years ago opened the way for RIVERS to assume the powerful committee chairmanship, hailed RIVERS as "an outstanding Southern statesman." He called the Carolinian "a great chairman of the Armed Services Committee" and added:

"He sat by me for about 25 years and was my righthand power. I fully intend to attend his funeral. In his death, South Carolina and the nation lost one of its most outstanding legislators."

In his first press statement since he was hospitalized for a lower respiratory infection three weeks ago, Sen. Russell said he was "deeply saddened" by RIVERS' death.

"No man ever lived who was more wholeheartedly dedicated to the defense of this nation than MENDEL RIVERS, and those of us who are convinced that a strong defense is our hope for continued freedom and peace have lost a champion," said Russell.

The 73-year-old Georgian, who was RIVERS' Senate counterpart while chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, recalled that "for three decades I met with him in conference and we worked together in matters relating to the armed services. He not only had a far-reaching understanding of the operations of the Department of Defense but he was unyielding in his efforts to insure that the department was supplied with the necessary means to guarantee the security of this nation."

First District Rep. G. Elliott Hagan, who served under RIVERS as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said he had daily occasion "to see first-hand his keen interest and enthusiasm for our servicemen and the great country they serve. I have had the rare honor of calling this great and beloved American patriot my friend. I shall sorely miss his wise counsel and exemplary leadership in the days and years ahead."

Maddox said he is attempting to rearrange his schedule to attend RIVERS' funeral.

[From the Washington (D.C.) Post, Dec. 29, 1970]

BACKERS, OPPONENTS MOURN REP. RIVERS

Friends and critics agreed yesterday that Rep. L. MENDEL RIVERS will not soon be matched in Congress as "a fierce advocate" of military strength.

The House Armed Services Committee chairman, who died of heart failure yesterday at 65, was described by Vice President Agnew as "a dedicated

soldier in the ranks of public service . . . a patriot whose loss will be deeply felt by his fellow Americans."

Rep. Robert L. Leggett (D.-Calif.), who served under RIVERS on the Armed Services Committee and often quarreled with the chairman's demands for increased defense spending, said:

"The country has lost a great patriot and the Department of Defense has lost its most zealous advocate. I believe his passing will mark the end of an era in the Department of Defense . . . There are only a few people with the charismatic power of mind that could put together the coalition he did. There is a question whether any new chairman could do it."

RIVERS' successor as chairman, Rep. F. Edward Hébert (D.-La.), spoke also in tribute to his late friend.

"MENDEL RIVERS was a fierce advocate of what he believed," Hébert said. "His dedication to the security and defense of this country was unlimited. His courage and determination, coupled with his tenacity and forthrightness, were the keystones to the many fights he fought for the country he loved."

House Speaker John McCormack called him "a bulwark of strength to our country."

"He stood for strength, not weakness, a strong national defense and a firm foreign policy so necessary in the world today," McCormack said.

Sen. Richard B. Russell (D.-Ga.), who for years was chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, expressed his sadness and respect. Rep. RIVERS, he said, "not only had a far-reaching understanding of the operations of the Department of Defense, but he was unyielding in his efforts to insure that the department was supplied with the necessary means to guarantee the security of this nation."

President Nixon, in his tribute, noted that RIVERS fought for increased military strength despite currents of criticism in recent years. "No shifting national opinion, no amount of hostile criticism, deterred him from the course he deemed right for America," the President said.

The Rev. Billy Graham called RIVERS "my closest friend in Congress."

"The nation has lost one of its greatest leaders at a very critical time," Dr. Graham said. "I look forward to seeing him in Heaven."

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird recalled the congressman's successful efforts to improve military pay and benefits. "MENDEL RIVERS' devotion to the cause of the individual serviceman and his sponsorship of legislation benefitting military personnel have added significantly to the morale of our armed forces," Laird said.

[From the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer, Dec. 29, 1970]

Rivers—A Farm Boy With Cunning

(By Jack Bass)

Charleston no longer will be known for its three great Rivers—the Ashley, the Cooper and the Mendel.

L. Mendel Rivers was more than a congressman to Charleston. He was a public institution, the "Swamp Fox" of South Carolina Politics, and virtually "Congressman-At-Large" for South Carolina.

A flowing mane of white hair was his trademark.

During his 30 years in Congress, in which he became a figure on the stage of world power as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rivers brought prosperity to Charleston in the form of military installations and defense industries.

The funeral for Rivers who died early Monday of heart failure, will be Wednesday at Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston. He will be buried at St. Stephen, S.C. near the graves of his parents.

Rivers died at 1:40 a.m. in University Hospital, where he had gone in early December for open heart surgery to replace a leaking mitral valve with a plastic valve.

He began his political career as a state legislator from Charleston in 1933. He served two terms, then moved to Washington as a Justice Department attorney.

In 1938, he married Margaret Middleton, daughter of an aristocratic Charleston family, who with two daughters and a son, survive him.

Rivers was born on Sept. 28, 1905, near Gumville, a crossroads in the Hell Hole Swamp section of Berkeley County, an area known as a breeding ground for politicians and for its moonshine whiskey. Nearby was the farm on which S.C. Gov. Robert E. McNair grew up on a farm. Down the road, former Columbia Mayor Lester L. Bates was born the same day as Rivers.

After the death of his father, Rivers moved to North Charleston. As a teen-ager, he was a star baseball player. Like thousands of other youngsters, he delivered newspapers on an early morning route.

He attended the College of Charleston and then law school at the University of South Carolina. He passed the bar exam before his senior year, won election to the legislature and never graduated.

His first race for Congress in 1940 is legend in Charleston. Rivers ran against an entrenched "Charleston Machine," whose candidate was Fritz Von Kolnitz, a respected banker and one-time outstanding athlete at the University of South Carolina.

Rivers roamed the small towns and dusty rural crossroads of the eight outlying counties that with Charleston form his congressional district.

"The only banker I ever knew," Rivers would roar, "was the one who foreclosed the mortgage on my Mama's farm after my daddy died." It was the eve of World War II, and Rivers made political capital out of Von Kol-

nitz's German name. RIVERS always referred to him in the campaign as "Von Kolnitski."

The night of the election returns, supporters had to restrain RIVERS from conceding as early returns from Charleston County gave a big lead to Von Kolnitz, who won the county by more than 4,000 votes.

Then the outlying counties began reporting and the rural voters gave one-sided margins to RIVERS, who won the election by 3,000 votes.

He never again had serious opposition. Twice, he was opposed by Negro candidates, the last time in 1968, but RIVERS won easily. Over the years, he developed some strong alliances within the Negro community.

In that first election, RIVERS promised the voters he would come back each year and hear their problems. His district trip was pure Americana.

A close associate described it "as the savior coming home." RIVERS would spend a day in each county seat and people would come in with personal problems involving the government.

They ranged from red tape about Social Security or veterans' benefits to getting a boy in service closer home because a parent was seriously ill. An aide dutifully took notes and the complaints were acted on back in Washington.

"He liked to think of himself as a country boy," an associate recalls, "and the trips were a source of strength to him."

RIVERS could verbally flay the hide off an opponent, but there was a soft resonance in his voice and a fondness for the poetry he frequently quoted in speeches.

RIVERS viewed his role in Congress as fulfilling as a sense of destiny, according to one of his closest associates, a destiny in which RIVERS viewed American military might as the barrier between this country and "godless Communism."

He once commented about need for a strong military by declaring, "to hell with world opinion."

Although he never served in the armed services, RIVERS was fawned upon by generals and admirals and he was a hero to enlisted men as a champion of improved pay, benefits and living conditions for the military.

Although known nationally as an arch-conservative champion of military spending, RIVERS maintained the most liberal voting record of any member of the S.C. congressional delegation, frequently voting in favor of domestic social legislation.

Once RIVERS told an interviewer "I had an awful hard time living when I was a young fellow. I knew poverty like nobody in the South Carolina delegation ever did. When I can help the man-in-the-street, I'll do it, 'cause I remember it."

His legacy as a farm boy remained forever with him as an early riser who usually began work in his congressional office in Washington by 6 a.m.

RIVERS also liked to cook and was good at it. Once before an auto trip from Washington to Charleston, with a group of family and staff, RIVERS rose early enough to cook a huge bag of fried chicken before everyone else got up to pile into a car at 6 a.m.

He was a man of tremendous physical stamina, whose workday often lasted 14 hours or longer.

He once supported Republican Dwight Eisenhower for president, but later called it a mistake and was a Democratic party loyalist. He told the S.C. State Democratic Convention in 1970 he would "die a Democrat."

His profession was politics, and he was a pro who knew it was results that counted. When fellow Democratic Congressman Albert W. Watson switched parties in 1965, there was speculation that other S.C. congressmen would no longer cooperate with him. Watson approached RIVERS on the floor of the House and asked, "MENDEL, you'll work with me, won't you?"

RIVERS put an arm around Watson's shoulder, smiled like a fox, and declared, "Albert, I'd cross a bridge with the devil if I had to get to the other side."

A couple of years ago, New Left Democrat Allard Lowenstein of New York was observed talking to RIVERS on the floor of the House on Lowenstein's first day in Congress. RIVERS was seen replying and holding his hand in front of Lowenstein's face with three fingers raised.

The freshman congressman's wife observed the scene from the gallery with apprehension, thinking that RIVERS surely was telling her husband he would give him three days to last in Congress.

When she asked Lowenstein about it, he explained that he had told RIVERS about an aunt in Charleston and that RIVERS was informing him, "we have three synagogues in Charleston."

Among close associates, RIVERS was known as a man with a conscience, one who understood and appreciated his own strengths and weaknesses.

Several years ago, after the late columnist Drew Pearson publicized nationally that RIVERS had serious problems with alcohol, associates of RIVERS reported he "went on the wagon" and licked whatever problem there was with will power.

Solomon Blatt of Barnwell, speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives for 30 years, served as a freshman legislator with RIVERS and remembers him as "a born political leader."

A LEGEND DIES—RIVERS HAD HIS HIGH NOON

(By Barbara S. Williams)

L. MENDEL RIVERS had his high noon.

It couldn't have been easy, but until only a few weeks before his death, he lived life at its peak.

L. MENDEL RIVERS couldn't have done it any other way. That, of course, was one of the reasons he was a legend while he lived.

No one is prepared for a legend to die, especially not one so vibrantly alive.

That, perhaps, was one of the reasons it was such a shock when the announcement came that RIVERS had entered the University of Alabama for open heart surgery.

It didn't seem possible. Only a week before, the white-maned congressman had been the star of the show at the keel-laying in Newport News, Va., for the USS *South Carolina.*

Reporters were restless while the speeches droned on and they shivered during the open-air ceremonies. They were all counting on RIVERS to give them their story and he didn't disappoint.

If the weather was uncomfortable for them, it must have been even more so for RIVERS. Those who knew about his condition say it took more guts than most people have to have kept up his schedule.

He was full of fire in Newport News. It just wasn't his style to be dull.

One of the last photographs taken of RIVERS, however, was snapped that day. It caught the congressman in a pensive mood and one can only guess what he must have been thinking.

Reporters flying up for the ceremonies were a little surprised there weren't more of the area's elected officials on the plane. Afterwards it became obvious. Most of those invited along for what was the last big ceremony, were some of his oldest friends.

RIVERS had known for some time that the operation was the only hope to maintain the life-style he loved. The decision to have the high risk surgery couldn't have been easy.

Whatever hesitation he must have felt seemed to have disappeared after he entered the hospital. The night before the operation, he seemed perfectly at peace with his decision.

That night tells a great deal about the RIVERS style. Wire stories flooded into The News and Courier and local reporters only knew what they were being told by other sources.

Suddenly the telephone rang and there was RIVERS on the line. He said he was feeling fine; described what was going on in the room and talked about the operation only a few hours away.

RIVERS made it clear he preferred the risk to being incapacitated but didn't dwell on the possibilities. He was full of the fight that had taken him so far.

He also still was the consummate politician and made it clear he was perfectly aware of the kind of political speculation his illness had touched off.

"Where's Palmer?" he asked cagily.

That telephone call was a part of that beautiful personal touch that came so naturally to MENDEL RIVERS. He was giving his personal attention at a time when most men wouldn't have given them a thought.

He did live to see an indication of the influence of his life. Telegrams from all parts of the world poured into that hospital from people of all walks of life. Telephone calls from former presidents and farmers kept the switchboards busy.

His son summed it up beautifully. "He died loved and mourned by millions and surrounded by his family. No man could ask for more."

MENDEL RIVERS was mourned here last week as no other man in South Carolina's history.

The thousands who walked by his casket; stood on the roadsides and at his grave obviously did feel a personal loss. He achieved what few politicians ever obtain—real contact with his people.

Almost everyone had a personal story to tell.

One former politician recalled that the morning after defeat, MENDEL RIVERS paid a 7 a.m. bolstering visit after being unable to get through on the telephone. As a result, that former politician was prepared to stand in line all day if necessary to attend the RIVERS funeral.

There are images of those days of mourning that keep coming back.

The tall Negro who stood in front of the RIVERS flag-draped coffin for several minutes and then gave a sharp salute before walking slowly back up the aisle.

The people of all shapes, sizes, colors and ages who came out in the cold, steady rain while RIVERS lay in repose in Grace Episcopal Church.

The thousands who lined the highways as the funeral cortege slowly took him back to the rural county where he was born.

RIVERS was wrong in one of his most often-quoted statements.

Unfortunately, the woods aren't full of people like him.

[From the Camden (S.C.) Chronicle, Dec. 30, 1970]

L. MENDEL RIVERS

South Carolina in particular and the U.S. Armed Forces in general lost one of their most effective champions Monday when death claimed U.S. Representative L. MENDEL RIVERS.

Rep. RIVERS, the fiery shaggy-haired orator from Berkeley County, was a member of the House for 29 years, and was chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and ranked as one of Congress' most powerful voices for U.S. military superiority.

Controversy swirled around the 65-year-old Southern gentleman for his no-compromise support of any and all efforts on the part of the Armed Forces. His name is on hundreds of bills benefiting servicemen and their families.

The Chronicle certainly will agree with Governor Robert McNair, who said:

"The death of Rep. RIVERS deprives the world of a man of peace who understood the sacrifices which must be made to preserve and defend it."

The flags will surely fly at half-staff for this devoted public servant.

[From the Beaufort (S.C.) Gazette, December 31, 1970]

L. Mendel Rivers

Beaufort County has lost a good friend in the passing of L. Mendel Rivers. His frequent visits, his stirring addresses and the untold good that he has rendered our area will be missed for years to come.

Mendel Rivers was many things to many people . . . Congressman, statesman, friend of the military . . . but to us he was an American above all else. He loved his country and his state and he had no reservations when it came to "looking out" for his Congressional District.

He believed in keeping our Country strong militarily. He was a hard-liner in international affairs and a believer in force when necessary to protect our position and prestige. He was a military man's man.

Born in Berkeley County and raised on a farm, he knew the meaning of work and the simple life. That he was a Champion of the little man attests to his early life and his feelings for others.

Apropos of our feelings is the following quote from one of his hometown editors in Charleston:

"Along with grief, we feel today a keen sense of gratitude for this man whom we liked and admired through the years. He had many qualities: a quick mind, a kindly nature, matched with the toughness that fitted him for a rugged career. He had an inner faith that directed his life: faith in his community, his country, his people and above all faith in God. In a period of questioning, in a political arena where every word and deed is challenged, Mendel Rivers possessed a built-in compass that guided his way through life. When the boy from Gumville reached the halls of fame, he walked with sure tread."

The death of L. Mendel Rivers at age 65 will leave not only a void in our local community, but on the national scene as well. Few men have ever achieved the heights of this man and fewer still ever will.

He will be missed by the little man, the big man, the military and friends from all walks of life. We are saddened by his death and mourn his passing, but rejoice that he led a full life and will go down in history as a great American.

[From the Army Times, Jan. 6, 1971]

Mendel Rivers Dies

Birmingham, Ala.—Lucius Mendel Rivers, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee since January 1965, died December 28 at University Hospital here. He celebrated his 65th birthday Sept. 28, 1970.

Rep. Rivers' death leaves Rep. Phillip J. Philbin (D., Mass.) as ranking member of the committee until the mandatory adjournment of the 91st Congress on Jan. 3, 1971.

Then, if the usual precedents are followed, Rep. F. Edward Hébert, (D., La.), who entered Congress the same day as RIVERS, Jan. 3, 1941, will be elected chairman. Rep. Philbin, the number 2 Democrat, had been defeated for renomination and failed to win reelection on a write-in vote in November.

RIVERS died less than a week before completing his 30th year of service in Congress. He had been re-elected without opposition in November.

The strong-minded chairman of one of Congress' most powerful committees early joined the old Naval Affairs Committee and shifted to Armed Services when that committee was created after World War II, under the chairmanship of Walter G. Andrews (R., N.Y.). When the third chairman, Rep. Carl Vinson retired after 50 years' service, RIVERS assumed the chairmanship.

From the moment he assumed the chairmanship, RIVERS—in addition to promoting a strong defense in terms of money, numbers of men and adequate weapons, particularly new ships—immediately began to promote the welfare of servicemen.

He was particularly concerned that service benefits should never lag those of civil servants, and obtained enactment of a law which provided that, whenever civilians got a pay raise, the military would get an equivalent one at the same time. He also worked assiduously to equalize or better travel and other benefits, and was a strong advocate of medical and dental care for service dependents and of improving survivor benefits.

He was active in promoting low-cost charter flights between the U.S. and Europe and in combatting Civil Aeronautics Board attempts to curtail them. When the Vietnam command authorized two-week Christmas leaves, RIVERS immediately and successfully urged air carriers to provide rates and services which would make the leave policy meaningful.

Although RIVERS had for some time known of his heart ailment, he stayed to finish the committee's business for the session. Before leaving for University Hospital, he attended a ceremony at which a group of servicemen who had been able to fly home on leave from Vietnam honored him for his work in making their trip possible.

He underwent open heart surgery on December 11. A leaking mitral valve was replaced with a plastic one. RIVERS seemed to be recovering when he suffered a heart stoppage December 20. On the 27th he suffered a series of heart stoppages, and died.

RIVERS was born in Berkeley County, which is part of the district he later represented. Though of a family left poor after his father's death when MENDEL was five, Mr. RIVERS got through the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina and was admitted to the bar in 1932.

He served in the South Carolina legislature, 1933–6, and for the next four years was a special attorney for the U.S. Justice Department. He has received a number of honorary degrees and memberships; the Reserve Officers Association's "Minute Man" Award in 1965, and the Air Force Association's Citation of Honor the same year.

He is survived by his wife, the former Margaret Middleton, of Charleston; two daughters, Mrs. Robert G. Eastman and Lois Marion, a son, Lucius Mendel, Jr., and two grandchildren.

[From the Jasper County (S.C.) News, Dec. 31, 1970]

We have lost a friend, Jasper County has lost a friend. The Low Country has lost a friend. South Carolina has lost a friend. In fact, all of the peace loving, free world has lost a friend. We are speaking of L. Mendel Rivers, who passed away, early Monday morning in a Birmingham Hospital. Someone will take his place but L. Mendel Rivers will never be replaced. He never failed to speak his mind on anything that came up in Congress. He did his own thinking and always went to bat for what he thought was right.

He was a man that acted out the true American dream. He rose from a country boy in Hell Hole Swamp to one of the most powerful men in the United States, in fact, the whole world. There is no doubt that he has given his life to fight for what he believes to be right. The military and all service personnel of the United States have certainly lost a great friend and an ardent admirer. His theory was that there could be no compromise with principle and no faltering in the fight to keep this nation free and strong.

L. Mendel Rivers never backed down from a fight. We personally think that he will go down in history as one of the greatest South Carolinians that ever lived. He will be ranked with John Calhoun, Andrew Johnson, and Wade Hampton. One of the greatest things he ever said was, "I've got a sense of greatness, I am not going to let my name go down to the dreamless silence of the tongueless dust."

All we can say is, "Rest in peace Mendel, you left a job well done."

[From the James Island (S.C.) Journal, Dec. 31, 1970]

Mendel Rivers

South Carolina has lost one of its greatest statesmen with the death of L. Mendel Rivers. So much has been said about the man since his untimely death that anything said here would be redundant. However, we must make comment lest we burst with sorrow.

No matter what party you belong to, you have to respect and admire a man like Mendel Rivers. He was a man of uncommon ability. His death ends an era in South Carolina history.

Meeting him one day in a city some distance from Charleston, the editor of this newspaper identified himself to Mr. Rivers. At that point Rivers said, "Ah yes, the James Island Journal. I read it each week." Pulling the latest issue of the Journal from his back pocket, which astounded the editor, he added, "I like to keep up with the local news. I read all the weekly

papers from my area and others in South Carolina. I love 'em. I enjoy reading about my people." In leaving he would say, "Pray for me and may God bless you."

It comforts us to know that Mr. RIVERS, in living his life as he did, is in his full glory at a much higher station.

[From the Columbia (S.C.) Star-Reporter, Dec. 31, 1970]

LOSS TO ALL

The passing of Rep. L. MENDEL RIVERS of Charleston, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, is a loss to the nation as well as South Carolina. As a champion of preparedness from way back, he had labored strenuously to keep this nation strong while so many of the addle-heads in Congress were trying to weaken our military posture. He had the fire and the determination to carry through his points when he felt he was right.

He will be missed, not only in Charleston and South Carolina but throughout the world wherever our military men are stationed. For he was the friend of the serviceman and he was ever on guard for their welfare.

As to his successor, we think the best prospect now would be retiring Governor Robert E. McNair. With the prestige of the governor's office hardly off his shoulders, he should be able to roll over any primary opponents and anybody the Republicans can put up in the general election. As a resident of Allendale, he is in the first district, so would qualify from the residence standpoint.

[From the Lake City (S.C.) Post, Dec. 28, 1970]

L. MENDEL RIVERS

The death of MENDEL RIVERS means many things to many people:

To his family, loss of a husband and father;

To fellow South Carolinians, departure of an honored representative who looked out for his constituents in countless ways;

To the military—from generals to GIs—deprival of effective support in government;

To enemies of the American Republic, both abroad and at home, defeat of a valiant adversary;

To politicians, reshuffling of the power structure;

To the nation, the passing of a patriot tall in stature and strong in action.

We knew MENDEL RIVERS from the beginning. A poor boy in terms of money, he had the richness of decent upbringing. Despite his carefree manner, he soon developed a keen sense of purpose that carried him to law school and into politics.

From the state legislature he mounted the ladder to Congress. Realizing the importance of the Charleston Navy Yard to the First Congressional Dis-

trict, he found a place on the Naval Affairs Committee. He grew with experience and helped to arm the country for the conflicts of his time.

In the process, Rep. Rivers earned the label "controversial"—meaning whatever the user of the word intends it to mean. To us, he was fighting for the flag. Though he never wore a uniform, he was in the thick of combat where it counts in the defense of a great country. Whatever else may be said of Mendel Rivers, he never let his country down.

The details of his career in politics will be recounted and remembered in many media. Announcement of his death topped the morning broadcasts, reverberating around the world wherever U.S. service men are stationed. Our enemies also are taking note of the turn of events triggered when a heart stopped beating yesterday morning in a hospital bed at Birmingham.

Along with grief, we feel today a keen sense of gratitude for this man, whom we liked and admired through the years. He had many qualities: a quick mind, a kindly nature, matched with the toughness that fitted him for a rugged career. He had an inner faith that directed his life: faith in his community, his country, his people and above all, faith in God. In a period of questioning, in a political arena where every word and deed is challenged, Mendel Rivers possessed a built-in compass that guided his way through life. When the boy from Gumville reached the halls of fame he walked with sure tread.

Mendel Rivers had boundless energy. Rising at an incredibly early hour, he pounded through a daily routine at age 65 that would have floored a lesser man. Being human, he was not perfect. We leave to others the task of reciting his flaws. We counted him a friend.

His death leaves a vacuum of unpredictable size. At this moment of sorrow, we shall not try to survey the possibilities. We know it will be hard to fill his shoes. He will be missed in many quarters. Much more remains to be said about this man and his accomplishments. Today we mourn, and salute a gallant warrior at rest.

[From the Columbia (S.C.) Record, Dec. 29, 1970]

Mendel Rivers: A Warrior Dies

"Men must endure their going hence, even as their coming hither." And as his great heart throbbed, stuttered and stopped, never to beat again, Mendel Rivers recognized this solemn truth of mortal man.

Today the state and nation mourn the passing of this singular warrior, whose grateful heart pulsed in life with abundant affection for country, state and people. A man of no bookish theory, Mendel Rivers simply loved the United States, South Carolina and its people.

A simple child of Carolina, he grew into the position of power in the U.S. House of Representatives—the chairmanship of the Armed Services Committee. Possession and use of power tests the mettle of any man, as it tested Mendel Rivers.

He was unawed. Rough and unvarnished, pugnacious and tenacious, he fought and clawed in the House for the security of the land he loved; fighting rather lonely battles in more recent years, when the military reverted to its stature of the 1930's, scarcely beloved and often criticized.

His bemaned brow touched heaven, on occasions, as he unremittingly pronounced the singular truth of the current world: a strong United States in our day is a guarantor of freedom against predatory aggression. An unwilling Samson, this nation shorn of its locks would cause catastrophe scarcely measurable throughout the world.

Hence he was a General of the Armies, an Admiral of the Navies without rank whose leadership was recognized throughout the military—from top to bottom. As a blunt man unafraid to command, he reminded many of the late George Patton, whose derring-do in World War II saved thousands of lives.

Even as the shadow of death fell across his last years, MENDEL RIVERS apologized to none for his devotion to national security, his love for his state, and his affection for all Americans.

While he breathed, he was criticized for seeking South Carolina's share of the military dollar. In truth, he did. All should remember that an ill-fated young President, John Kennedy, often said that it was one of the primary responsibilities of any Congressman to serve the people of his district and his state well, protecting their interests in the jungles of Washington.

MENDEL RIVERS did not apologize for the just share of military establishments in the Palmetto State. This state has been, and will continue to be, a friend to the military—whether in the Piedmont, the Midlands, the Pee Dee or the Lowcountry.

Patriot, dogmatic warrior, uncompromising orator, Carolinian and—above all—American, this was MENDEL RIVERS. Peace, he knew, was attainable only through security in our day and in our time. In going hence, as must all men, MENDEL RIVERS departed to a peace which the world cannot give. But he left the world more peaceful than it could have been without his presence and his purposeful will.

[From the Greenville (S.C.) News, Dec. 29, 1970]

CONGRESSMAN MENDEL RIVERS

Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS always did his homework well. As a result he was one of the most powerful men in Washington and was unbeatable in the First South Carolina Congressional District.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Congressman RIVERS was almost the absolute master of the House of Representatives on military matters. He had the respect and confidence of an overwhelming majority of his fellow legislators.

A believer in strong military forces and strong action to protect American interests, the South Carolinian was intensely disliked by the latter-day liberal establishment. But he proved more than a match for all opponents in battle after battle in the House.

A representative for more than 30 years and chairman of Armed Services for the past five, Congressman Rivers was an acknowledged expert on military affairs. He made it his business to keep in close touch with the far-flung military establishment, traveling all over the world and talking with service personnel of all ranks.

Detractors criticized what they called Representative Rivers' frequent "junkets" to military installations everywhere. But those trips kept the chairman well informed about what was going on in what he regarded as his global military constituency. No matter what happened or where militarily, Mendel Rivers knew what it was—and more important why it was.

He was respected, even revered by career enlisted personnel, because he fought constantly for better pay and better conditions for servicemen and women. He had the confidence of military leaders. He also had that all-important confidence of the House of Representatives and of all Presidents with whom he worked.

He was able to build and keep a coalition of House votes, composed of both Democrats and Republicans, which guaranteed passage of important military legislation. Critics could carp at Congressman Rivers, but they could not prevail against him.

The same situation obtained in his home district, which covers a wide area of lower South Carolina. No matter where he went or how often he went, Mendel Rivers kept in close touch with the people back home. He moved among them constantly, never losing the flavor of his Berkeley County Farm origin.

Because he was powerful in the military world, Congressman Rivers was able to get many military installations for South Carolina, especially in his home district. He was acknowledged as the Charleston area's chief economic asset.

In recent years nobody could touch Mendel Rivers politically. He was the choice of Democrats and Republicans, whites and blacks, throughout his district. He also was his own boss in national political affairs. Some Democrats complained because he spoke favorably of George Wallace in the 1968 presidential campaign, but suggestions that he be "disciplined" by the party in Congress were laughed off.

Congressman Rivers was a strong-willed man with an excellent intellect. He new what he was doing, why he was doing it, and how to get it done. He had much to do with keeping this country's military guard up in the face of increasing disarmament pressure.

Because dangerous world conditions make military strength mandatory, Congressman Rivers' death Monday was a severe loss to the nation and the free world. Already doubts are being expressed about whether the "military coalition" he built will survive his passing.

For South Carolina the loss is immense. A strong voice in national affairs has fallen silent. A powerful developer of military installations in the state

has gone. The entire state, especially the Charleston area, can suffer economically and otherwise.

More important, however, the nation and the free world have lost a stalwart patriot, a giant who cannot be replaced easily or quickly.

[From the Rock Hill (S.C.) Evening Herald, Dec. 30, 1970]

Powerful Leader Dies

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, the flambouyant congressman from Hell Hole Swamp in Berkeley County, is dead.

No longer will South Carolina and the nation hear the white-haired congressman's fiery oratory that has been his trademark for these many years.

Not only has Charleston County and the first congressional district lost a powerful leader, but Rivers' death will have lasting effects on the state and the nation.

The controversial congressman built a lasting memorial to himself in Charleston County, in particular, by pouring defense funds into the area to establish military bases and to strengthen the ones that were in existence when he took over as chairman of the powerful Armed Services Committee.

Mendel Rivers was proud of his record in Congress, almost to the point of being a braggert. But most will agree his accomplished tasks for his constituency and military men were worth boasting about.

He was tenacious and outspoken as he fought brilliantly for the military complex during his career in the House that spanned 30 years.

In 1966, Rivers held the military procurement bill in committee and stated: "We'll keep it here until hell freezes over unless the Senate orders McNamara to build two Nuclear powered frigates."

Less than four years later, Rivers officiated at the laying of the keel of the *South Carolina,* a $224 million nuclear powered frigate.

Rivers was an independent politician, shunning the Democratic Party in 1948 to support Strom Thurmond's unsuccessful bid for the presidency. He openly supported Dwight D. Eisenhower for the presidency in 1952—the only Democratic congressman to do so.

He later broke with the Eisenhower administration when the Pentagon pushed to integrate the National Guard.

Rivers' death at 65 removes from the national scene a man who left his mark in the halls of Congress, the Pentagon and South Carolina.

He will be missed equally by a soldier in Vietnam, a sailor on the ocean, a lawyer in his district, and his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives.

[From the Aiken (S.C.) Standard, Dec. 31, 1970]

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers

The American in uniform has lost his best friend.

The death of United States Rep. Lucius Mendel Rivers of Charleston is being felt already in faraway places around the globe, wherever an American serviceman is stationed. In the last few years, a warm affinity had developed between Mr. Rivers, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and the man in uniform.

It was not an uncommon thing for any South Carolinian far from home to get a special greeting from our men in uniform—"because that's Mendel Rivers' home state". Mr. Rivers just about acquired patron sainthood in their eyes.

"He speaks our language," they would tell you.

"He's the man who has our interests in mind, is able to do something and does it," was an oft-heard consensus.

Mr. Rivers was obsessed with a determination to keep this countrys' military forces strong, in the belief that this was the best way to keep the peace and keep our freedom. He was an out-spoken hawk. He believed in the capacity of our military establishment and he believed it should be used to preserve our position. He believed we should have gone all-out to achieve victory in Korea. He felt we should have mass-bombed Haiphong to destroy North Vietnam's main artery for supplies.

"Military might!" he was wont to say. "It's the only thing those people understand." He openly scorned whatever effect such positions might have had on world opinion.

Mr. Rivers rarely exposed tepid opinions. He felt control of the military establishment belonged in the hands of Congress and made his case forcefully and often. It quickly produced a highly publicized series of confrontations with the then Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. There were a number of occasions when Mr. Rivers and his committee authorized appropriations in excess of that sought by the military chiefs. Mr. Rivers would tell them plainly that they needed more, whether it was for more destroyers or more hospitals.

He was a champion of advanced military hardware. He took a keen interest in the development of the beleagured C5 airplane. When the first one was being delivered to Charleston for duty, there was the predictable ceremony. Mr. Rivers was the principal speaker.

To the embarassment of most persons present—but not Mr. Rivers—the giant droppy-winged airplane dropped a wheel just before it landed safely.

"That's why those planes have 28 wheels," Congressman Rivers said. "It landed safely. It didn't have to use all those wheels."

He then took the opportunity of dismissing critics:

"There are some," he acknowledged, "who would rather have seen a wing drop off. All I can say is to hell with them."

The military people, from generals to privates, admired his unflinching aggressiveness and his courage in the face of criticism that often became intense and personal. His forthrightness if not always his position, was admired by his colleagues of both political parties in the House.

A few months ago, after a bitter attack by a Washington columnist, his fellow congressmen one after another took the floor to lavish praise on him.

Mr. Rivers began his political career as an underdog. Few in Lowcountry South Carolina had given him much chance to be elected to Congress. He came through, and was returned to office 16 times in the ensuing years.

His early years in Congress were spent in the more usual chores of a young congressman: doing what he could for the people of his First Congressional District. It was often said that when it came to looking after the personal interests of his constituents there was not a better representative. He was similarly indefatigable in his efforts to bring new prosperity to a region which, at the time of his election, was still trying to extricate itself from the ravages of the Civil War. He is credited with bringing the big Air Force base to Charleston; a number of defense-related industries; bringing the Marine Air Station to Beaufort; the Veterans Administration Hospital to Charleston, and keeping and strengthening existing posts such as the Charleston Naval Base and the Parris Island Marine Depot.

Comics and critics said that if Mr. Rivers put another military installations at Charleston the whole area would sink into the Atlantic Ocean. On one occasion Mr. Rivers quickly took up the challenge and said he would seek to have the Federal government drive pilings in order to reinforce the entire area so that more military installations could safely be placed there.

Usually he answered such quips straight-forwardly.

"Where else," he would ask, "can you find a more deserving people, a more patriotic people, a more efficient people, a more conscientious people, a better climate and a better location?"

When the Charleston area's economy became so heavily supported with the Federal payrolls, it was whispered about that the city's economic structure was but a heartbeat away from collapse, Mr. Rivers' heartbeat.

Mr. Rivers' heart has now stopped beating after 65 years. The Lowcountry area's economy, while still heavily enriched with Federal money, is today quite healthy apart from it. And this pleasant condition to some degree, at least, is attributable to Mr. Rivers' energetic stimulation of the whole economy. The South Carolina Lowcountry's economy is strong enough now to withstand changes in the military presence that likely will come in the months and years ahead. Mr. Rivers' beloved First Congressional District—the Lowcountry of South Carolina—is much healthier now, thanks in large measure to his tireless efforts.

More than 10,000 persons had filed past his casket Tuesday at Grace Protestant Episcopal Church in Charleston. Men in work clothes, bearded youths, political luminaries, shuffling elderly people walking with assistance, white people and black people.

For the most part, they were those residents of the First Congressional District he called "my people".

They had come to say goodbye to an old and trusted friend.

He was a colorful man, an energetic representative. He was a friend to thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen from every state of the Union who knew him only by name and reputation. He was a personal friend to thousands of South Carolinians. All are saddened by his death.

All will miss the man from Hell Hole Swamp who became one of this country's most powerful men.

[From the Charleston (S.C.) Evening Post, Dec. 28, 1970]

REP. L. MENDEL RIVERS, 1905–1970

During 30 years in Congress, Rep. L. MENDEL RIVERS of Charleston established and enhanced a reputation based on pursuit of two basic courses: a determination to look out for his constituents and an abiding intention to keep the U.S. military strong. That he was able to pair these drives, and while so doing win more Capitol Hill battles than he lost, attested to his political skill and power. His success can be gauged by his re-election record, by counting bases in the First Congressional District and by considering the popularity he enjoyed not only with the folks back home but with men in uniform as well.

A Berkeley County native who knew the simple life and the meaning of work, MENDEL RIVERS was a natural for the role of champion of the little man, a role he assumed early in his political career. First as a state representative during the Depression of the 1930s and then as a U.S. Congressman he became known as a man to look to for help. By word and deed he fashioned a rapport with Lowcountrymen who returned him to office 16 times with virtually no opposition.

From that support base, Rep. RIVERS moved steadily upward through the avenues afforded by Democratic Party loyalty and the seniority system. In 1941, as the lowest ranking member of the old House Naval Affairs Committee, he began plumping for a strong Navy and maritime establishment. He never stopped. By the mid 1950s he was the military's leading advocate in Congress.

The military, MENDEL RIVERS fervently believed, stands as protector of what he liked to call "our way of life" and he concentrated his efforts on giving the armed forces what he thought they needed to do the job. He pushed through pay raises, went to bat for privates and generals, responded to requests for more and better hardware. He was for economy in government with one exception: defense.

Attaining his goal of charmanship of the House Armed Services Committee five years ago, he made known his intention to move control of the military back to Congress. The vow put him on a collision course with the civilian chiefs and the result was frequent tests of wills with such adversaries as former Defense Secretary McNamara.

As head of a committee which has a vital say on what the military gets and what it doesn't, Rep RIVERS had strong ideas on the types of ships the Navy needed (nuclear aircraft carriers) and on what kinds of planes the Air Force should get (C5s). Often intolerant of opposition views, he could shout down his critics or cooly ignore them, as he deemed expedient—but he seldom backed down. One way or another he survived attacks of all detractors.

In international affairs he was a consistent hard-liner, a believer in use of force whenever necessary to preserve U.S. position and prestige. He was for all-out war in Korea. He was for deterrent bombing in Vietnam. Repeatedly he advocated mass air attacks on Hanoi and Haiphong if that was what was needed to give American GIs the upper hand and close out the fighting in Indochina. His hawkishness obviously stemmed from strong faith in U.S. military capabilities and an equally strong conviction that the enemies from without understood might and might alone. "I don't give a damn about world opinion," he used to say.

His mind was on the military but not to the exclusion of all else. He had a fierce regional pride and a gift for oratory. He often took to the floor of the House to turn back what he saw as threats to the South, to South Carolina, to its people and traditions. His targets were many and varied. They included the Supreme Court, President Truman, the Washington Post, foreign aid, big spending by national-level Democrats. With the first school desegregation rulings, Mr. RIVERS called for interposition of state sovereignty between federal agencies and the schools. Like John C. Calhoun, whom many said he tried to emulate, he urged nullification by states of the federal mixing acts.

But through the years, improvement of the U.S. defense posture was the theme upon which MENDEL RIVERS dwelt. Building up the Navy was perhaps his favorite project but Air Force and Army alike got their share of his attention.

Given his temperament and bombastic approach to objectives, it was inevitable that he attracted critics. Some accused him of loading his home district with defense establishments. His answer, if he answered, was that from geographic and economic standpoints, coastal, S.C. sites were logical ones. He was, in fact, proud that he "sponsored 90 percent of the military installations in the (Charleston) area." For better or for worse, there can be little doubt that the metropolitan economy is weighted by the military.

Yet it must be said that with it all, the recognition achieved, the influence attained and exercised, the accomplishments of Rep. MENDEL RIVERS are counted best in terms of what he did for the country and the people he believed in, rather than in terms of what he did for himself.

His death at 65 removes from the national scene a man who left his mark in the halls of Congress, in the offices of the Pentagon, and especially on the face of the Carolina Lowcountry. Because of an extra effort he exerted there, a favor granted here, he will be remembered equally well by a soldier in Vietnam, a sailor on the Atlantic, a lawyer on Broad Street, a farmer in

Berkeley County. As are they, and thousands of others in government and out, we are saddened by his passing and by the void it creates.

WSPA–TV Editorial

Spartanburg, S.C.,
January 7, 1971.

So many tributes have been paid to Mendel Rivers that there is little WSPA can add either to the eulogies that have flown not only in South Carolina but throughout the Nation.

Even the anti-southern and ultra liberal columnists who dogged his every step after he became the powerful Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee have had some nice things to say about the departed South Carolinian.

From Hell Hole Swamp in Berkeley County to the high position he held on Capitol Hill was a long, hard journey for Mendel Rivers. He moved to Charleston and hung out his shingle to practice law. He began the practice of law in the depression years, and in 1936 he took a minor position with the Department of Justice. Those who knew him in the Roosevelt Administration never dreamed some day he would become one of the most powerful men in Washington.

Rivers was a States' Rights Democrat of the first order. His political views were closer to those of George Wallace than they were to Hubert Humphrey, but he would never stray so far off the reservation to have his party loyalty and Democratic Chairmanship questioned. Yet at no time did he fail to express his convictions or stultify his conscience.

In recent years Congressman Rivers has given a luncheon honoring the Speaker of the House. To attend one of these luncheons was to see the South Carolinian operating at his best. His Charleston friends would fly up quail and she crab soup. The large dining room in the Rayburn Office Building overflowed with dignitaries from all branches of the Government and friends from all walks of life.

Only last February Mendel Rivers honored his good friend John McCormack. Now that Rivers has gone and McCormack retired, Capitol Hill will not be the same.

Congressman Rivers' last public appearance before he entered the hospital in Birmingham for his heart operation was at the laying of the keel of the U.S.S. South Carolina at Norfolk on December 1st. There he warned of the increasing strength of the Russian Navy and said he was not sure "we could beat them if we met them on the high seas".

"A lot of our battle wagons would take off for the battle, but they wouldn't get there, because 80 percent of your Navy is old and 80 percent of their Navy is new."

And what MENDEL RIVERS said in concluding his speech at the laying of the keel of the U.S.S. South Carolina could well serve as the epitaph for his memorial:

"I am determined, as is your great Committee on Armed Services, that in your lifetime your Navy will not melt away, or as Kipling said in his famous lines:

"Far-called our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks afire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre."

"And Lord God—Lord God, be with us—lest we forget this commitment with our destiny which I plan to keep, so help me God."

[From the (D.C.) Daily News, Dec. 29, 1970]

L. MENDEL RIVERS

In Washington, in Army, Navy and Air Force circles and in Charleston, S.C., MENDEL RIVERS was a big name. If the name didn't have such key significance elsewhere, that suited its owner.

When MENDEL RIVERS died this week he had been a major influence in the House of Representatives and in the Pentagon for many years. He had made a career of helping the armed forces to meet their needs. And his home district of Charleston was liberally favored with military installations.

His seniority in the House (30 years) didn't elevate him to the chairmanship of the Armed Services Committee until 1965, but he had been a committee member and growing power since 1941. Few members of Congress used power more adroitly.

He had the respect, if not always the wholehearted admiration, of the House and it was a rare occasion when a majority voted against his wishes. As a result, he was an idol of the military forces and their well-organized alumni.

He had such a hold on his committee, despite the large and changing membership, that in 1968 it hung a life-size portrait of Rep. RIVERS in its hearing room—and all the high brass of the Pentagon was there. Only recently, the Air Force Association and the Navy League sponsored a luncheon, attended by 3,000, in his honor.

Rep. RIVERS often drew fire for his adamant affection for the military establishment, but this left him unaltered; he held such lack of understanding in a kind of scornful pity. He had picked his niche in politics, and he made the most of it.

The new Armed Services Committee chairman will be Edward Hébert (pronounced A-bear) who once said of Rep. RIVERS:

"Mendel went to the Naval Affairs Committee the year before I did and I followed him there and I have been following him ever since."

Rep. Rivers has left behind much more than a portrait in the hearing room.

[From the Columbia (S.C.) State, Dec. 29, 1970]

Mendel Rivers: The Man Behind the Front Line

Who was L. Mendel Rivers?

He was either an ogre, complete with horns and a forked tongue, spitting fire, blistering his enemies and the enemies of the United States military establishment.

Or he was a Santa Claus, lavish with his gifts, protective of his "children"—the armed forces and the First Congressional District of South Carolina.

Or he was the last of a breed of politicians, usually associated with the South, a Claghorn if you will, dramatic in appearance, florid in speech, excessive in conduct, actions, and words, possessed of the ability to at once delight, entertain, and outrage.

Or he was freedom's greatest defender, the man most responsible for keeping the United States the most powerful military nation in the world during a trying period when termites of timidity sought to gnaw their way into the very foundations of that power.

Whatever he was, Mendel Rivers was an original; he made his own political mold and then broke it. Now that he is dead there will never be another quite like him.

This thought will not displease those, here and abroad, who despised the man for some of the very reasons that others thought him great. The doves of America, in Congress and elsewhere, considered him the nation's No. 1 hawk, thought that he abused his power as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee to the benefit of himself, his state and district, his region, and the military forces. The enemies of democracy and freedom feared him as a man totally dedicated to the defense of those concepts wherever they were threatened in this world.

But his death will sadden, even frighten, those that know the containment of Communism lies in the moral and military strength of America, in its willingness and ability to carry out its commitments to the cause of freedom in the world.

Here in South Carolina, we appreciated this man as one who acted out the American dream, who rose from the poverty and backwardness of Hell Hole Swamp to become one of the most powerful men of his time. We rather enjoyed his blunt, often hyperbolic statements, delivered in that characteristic voice with its Lowcountry cadence. We excused his weaknesses. We marveled at his ability to play the role of the political maverick, supporting Dixiecrat and Republican presidential candidates, flirting with a George Wallace, while maintaining his power seat in the Democratic Party. We admired

his devotion to his state as manifest in his many tangible contributions to its economy.

But Mendel Rivers' most ardent supporters were the members of the armed forces, from private to general, who formed his larger constituency. Rivers interpreted the clause in the Constitution giving Congress the responsibility of maintaining the military as a fundamentalist interprets the story of the Creation. In defending that responsibility, and with it the welfare of the men who fight America's wars and guard the bastions of freedom the world over, he feared no foe. He would stand eyeball-to-eyeball with the mighty and not flinch.

Mendel Rivers once said, "I've got a sense of greatness . . . I'm not gonna let my name go down to the dreamless silence of the tongueless dust." Whether he was great, history will judge. But no dreamless silence will follow in the wake of Lucius Mendel Rivers. A physical and emotional vacuum, yes, and the deep sense of loss that always accompanies the death of a striking personality who was, from beginning to end, a patriot.

[From the Allendale (S.C.) County Citizen, Dec. 31, 1970]

L. Mendel Rivers

The death of Mendel Rivers means many things to many people:

To his family, loss of a husband and father;

To fellow South Carolinians departure of an honored representative who looked out for his constituents in countless ways;

To the military—from generals to GIs—deprival of effective support in government;

To enemies of the American Republic, both abroad and at home, defeat of a valiant adversary;

To politicians, reshuffling of the power structure;

To the nation, the passing of a Patriot tall in stature and strong in action.

We knew Mendel Rivers from the beginning. A poor boy in terms of money, he had the richness of decent upbringing. Despite his carefree manner, he soon developed a keen sense of purpose that carried him to law school and into politics.

From the state legislature he mounted the ladder to Congress. Realizing the importance of the Charleston Navy Yard to the First Congressional District, he found a place on the Naval Affairs Committee. He grew with experience and helped to arm the country for the conflicts of his time.

In the process, Rep. Rivers earned the label "controversial"—meaning whatever the user of the word intends it to mean. To us, he was fighting for the flag. Though he never wore a uniform, he was in the thick of combat where it counts in the defense of a great country. Whatever else may be said of Mendel Rivers, he never let his country down.

The details of his career in politics will be recounted and remembered in many media. Announcement of his death topped the morning broadcasts, reverberating around the world wherever U.S. servicemen are stationed. Our enemies also are taking note of the turn of events triggered when a heart stopped beating yesterday morning in a hospital bed at Birmingham.

Along with grief, we feel today a keen sense of gratitude of this man whom we liked and admired through the years. He had many qualities: a quick mind, a kindly nature, matched with the toughness that fitted him for a rugged career. He had an inner faith that directed his life: faith in his community, his country, his people and above all, faith in God. In a period of questioning, in a political arena where every word and deed is challenged, Mendel Rivers possessed a built-in compass that guided his way through life. When the boy from Gumville reached the halls of fame, he walked with sure tread.

Mendel Rivers had boundless energy. Rising at an incredibly early hour, he pounded through a daily routine at age 65 that would have floored a lesser man. Being human, he was not perfect. We leave to others the task of reciting his flaws. We counted him a friend.

His death leaves a vacuum of unpredictable size. At this moment of sorrow we shall not try to survey the possibilities. We know it will be hard to fill his shoes. He will be missed in many quarters. Much more remains to be said about this man and his accomplishments. Today we mourn, and salute a gallant warrior at rest.

[From the News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.) Dec. 31, 1970]

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[From the Charleston (S.C.) Evening Post, Dec. 28, 1970]

Rep. Rivers Dies of Heart Failure

DEATH CAME 16 DAYS AFTER OPERATION

Birmingham, Ala.—Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, the fiery powerful head of the House Armed Services Committee, died early today at University Hospital here, hospital officials said. He was 65.

The South Carolina Democrat had open heart surgery Dec. 11 to replace a leaking mitral valve with a plastic valve. Sunday, he suffered a series of heart stoppages, but heart action was restored, though the hospital said Rivers remained seriously ill.

Rivers' heart had stopped at least once previously, on Dec. 20, but a doctor revived him.

In a statement Sunday, the hospital said: "The persistent tendency toward this type of irregularity indicates continuation of the long-standing preoperative heart failure."

At 1:40 a.m. CST today, RIVERS died of what a spokesman said was continuing heart failure.

A family spokesman said RIVERS' funeral will be held at Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., and he will be buried near his parents at St. Stephen, S.C.

The date of the funeral was to be determined after RIVERS' family returned to Charleston late today. RIVERS' body was to be flown to his home today and funeral arrangements will be handled by Stuhr's.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Margaret Middleton Rivers; one son, Lucius Mendel Rivers Jr. of Washington; and two daughters, Mrs. Robert G. Eastman of Bloomington, Del., and Miss Lois Marion Rivers of Los Angeles.

RIVERS, in his capacity as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, ranked as one of Congress' most powerful voices for U.S. military superiority.

First in line for Rivers' chairmanship is Rep. Philip J. Philbin, D-Mass., but he was defeated in the November elections so would be chairman only for the few remaining days of the 91st Congress.

Thus under Congress' seniority system, Rep. F. Edward Hébert, D-La., who will be the committee's top Democrat in the next—92nd—Congress, will succeed RIVERS as chairman.

Hébert said today he will pursue the same goals as RIVERS when he takes over as chairman of the committee.

"I don't expect any immediate changes in the way the committee is run," Hébert said. "Nor do I intend to make any changes.

"I'll be seeking the same goals that MENDEL did."

Hébert, 69, said the chairmanship involves "awesome responsibility." The Louisiana Democrat said he and Sen. John Stennis of Mississippi, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, would be overseeing a military budget in excess of $80 billion.

Hébert and RIVERS entered Congress in 1941. Both have long advocated a strengthened military.

Hébert headed the special My Lai subcommittee which concluded last summer that field military and State Department officers in Vietnam deliberately tried to cover up the alleged massacre.

RIVERS betrayed no sign he was about to undergo heart surgery when he won House approval Dec. 7 of a resolution commending the Army commando raid on a North Vietnam POW camp.

Earlier that day he had been presented an admiral's field cap with "The Big Boss" and six gold stars emblazoned across it by the first planeload of 198 Vietnam GIs who got $376 round-trip flights home that RIVERS had helped arrange.

With flowing white hair, the style of a Southern gentleman and an erect 6-foot-3 frame, he was the Hollywood idea of a congressman and he liked to lace his debate with quotations from poetry and the Bible.

His five-year chairmanship of the committee was marked by tough language—"Retaliate! Retaliate! Retaliate!" he boomed after Hanoi's Tet offen-

sive on South Vietnam—and determination to maintain military superiority over the Soviet Union.

Some of his critics contended he used the Soviet potential for trouble and the power of his chairmanship to ride roughshod over efforts to reorder priorities for an adequate defense that would leave more money for domestic problems.

[From the Charleston (S.C.) Evening Post, Dec. 29, 1970]

MOURNERS BRAVE CHILLING DRIZZLE

(By Charles Hunter)

A light, chilling rain began falling today shortly after the flag-draped casket of Rep. L. MENDEL RIVERS was carried into Grace Episcopal Church at 9:15 a.m.

When the doors of the church were opened briefly at 10 a.m. for the public to enter, the rain had increased and the temperatures dropped.

Mrs. Rivers, her son and two daughters arrived at 10:20 a.m. to meet with other relatives seated near the casket in the sanctuary.

Church officials stopped the line of visitors while the family met and the casket was opened for viewing.

The family was inside the church for 45 minutes. The rector of Grace Church, the Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, joined the family and led them in a prayer before the church doors were reopened and visitors allowed to enter at 11 a.m.

The casket was left open.

Visitors stood in the rain under dripping umbrellas and reminisced about the silver-maned congressman from Charleston who was regarded as one of the most powerful men in Washington as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

All were in agreement that Rep. RIVERS will be "terribly missed."

"How many favors do you think this man has done for others," one elderly Charlestonian asked.

"Thousands, you just could not count all of them," another replied.

"He always gave you an answer even though it might not be the one you wanted," a third added to the conversation.

The church will remain open all night. An honor guard from the Air Force Base is scheduled to stand guard during the night, beginning at 9 p.m.

City police and plain clothed detectives are at the church to help with the crowd which is expected to increase this afternoon and tonight.

During the morning and early afternoon, visitors were moving rapidly through the church paying their last respects to the man armed servicemen throughout the world have called "our champion."

[From the Charleston (S.C.) Evening Post, Dec. 29, 1970]

Rivers Services Are Tomorrow at Grace Church—Congressman To Be Buried at St. Stephen

(By Jack Leland)

Funeral services for Rep. L. Mendel Rivers will be held in Grace Episcopal Church at 1 p.m. tomorrow. Burial will be in St. Stephens Episcopal Churchyard at St. Stephen, the Berkeley County town near which the congressman was born.

The body was placed in Grace Church at 10 a.m. today. It will remain there until the funeral and the church will be open all night.

The funeral will be attended by federal, state, military and local leaders. Defense Secretary Melvin L. Laird will lead the Nixon administration's official delegation which will include the joint chiefs of staff.

Members of the House Armed Services Committee, which Mr. Rivers headed, also will attend, as will South Carolina's congressmen and senators, Gov. McNair, Gov.-Elect John C. West and other state officials.

Two planes with about 200 persons aboard are scheduled to arrive from Washington, D.C. at noon tomorrow. The dignitaries aboard will be taken to Grace Church aboard buses with police escort.

All state, city and county offices here will be closed from noon until 2 p.m. for the funeral. Mayor Gaillard today issued a request that all business and offices in the city close during that period also.

Grace Church, at 98 Wentworth Street, is an antebellum structure with a seating capacity of about 650.

Rivers' body was flown to Charleston yesterday in an Air Force jet. He died early Monday morning in a Birmingham, Ala., hospital where he had undergone heart surgery Dec. 11.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Margaret Middleton Rivers; a son, Lucius Mendel Rivers, Jr. of Charleston; two daughters, Mrs. Robert G. Eastman of Wilmington, Del. and Miss Lois Marion Rivers of Los Angeles; two sisters, Mrs. Blanche Odom of Charleston and Mrs. Madge Danley of Bradenton, Fla., and two grandsons.

Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, USN, chairman of the joint Chiefs of Staff will head the military delegation with Laird. The armed services chiefs are Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, Navy, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army, Gen. John D. Ryan, Air Force, and Gen. Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., Marine Corps.

While tributes to the congressman began arriving yesterday personal tributes began when the Air Force jet carrying his body landed at the Charleston Air Force Base yesterday afternoon. Airmen working on planes at the base stopped and joined a 16-man honor guard as the casket of the "Serviceman's champion" was lowered to the ground on the base he helped create.

Rep. Rivers' illness and operation came as a surprise to his closest associates. The 65-year-old Berkeley County native had continued his normal 6 a.m. to midnight routine up to the time his office announced he would be hospitalized.

Only a week prior to the operation, he spoke at Newport News, Va., and used that occasion to continue a long-standing feud with former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara.

Following the operation, which physicians declared was a success. Mr. RIVERS appeared to be recuperating normally until Dec. 21, when his heart stopped beating. A physician revived the ailing organ and again the congressman seemed on the road to recovery when the final attack came Monday morning.

The family of Rep. RIVERS has established a memorial heart surgery research fund at the University of Alabama Medical Center at Birmingham. Contributions should be sent to the center's Department of Surgery.

State and municipal flags and those of military installations and ships were ordered to half mast in memory of the First District representative, The national press, as well as television and radio newscasters gave space and time to the man who was considered one of the most powerful congressmen in Washington because of his position as chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

[From the Charleston (S.C.) Evening Post, Dec. 29, 1970]

TRIBUTE PAID RIVERS BY MANY DIGNITARIES

(By Fred Rigsbee)

From the President of the United States down to local politicians; from generals down to privates; from wealthy businessmen to blue collar workers, tributes to the late L. MENDEL RIVERS pour in.

He was a serviceman's service man, an enlisted man said.

Congressman RIVERS, chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee, was never too busy to look after the little man in his first Congressional District.

Those paying tribute to the congressman remember how he looked after individual problems of his constituents as well as group problems. One mourner recalls how RIVERS helped him reinstate his GI insurance. Another recalls how the congressman, using his influence, pulled the local shipyard out of a cutback.

RIVERS was a "patriot who held unswervingly to the belief the freedom that exists in the modern world is inextricably tied to the military strength of the United States," President Nixon said.

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said "MENDEL RIVERS was a dedicated soldier in the ranks of public service. He was a patriot whose loss will be deeply felt by his fellow Americans."

RIVERS is best remembered by his mourners as a strong supporter of the military who felt that only through strength could peace be obtained.

Alabama Gov. Albert Brewer summed up this feeling by saying that RIVERS should have major credit "for the strong defense posture of our nation."

Rep. Carl Albert, D-Okla., House majority leader, called RIVERS one of the most brilliant and talented members of the body.

"No man in America, including our Presidents, has done more for our national defense than MENDEL RIVERS," said Sen. Strom Thurmond. "He stood watch for these past three decades at the frontiers of our national security, his accomplishments were great and our nation is poorer by reason of his death."

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, said: "Mr. RIVERS had the courage of his convictions and never failed to stand up for his beliefs even when they were unpopular."

Rep. W. J. Bryan Dorn called RIVERS one of the greatest leaders in modern history. "He was devoted and dedicated to the cause of peace. He believed that peace could only be obtained through strength and that weakness invited aggression and war."

The congressman "dedicated himself to ensure that his nation and countrymen could enjoy the blessings of freedom and security," said Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird said "the United States has suffered the loss of a great patriot and one who has worked ceaselessly to assure the security of this nation."

Flags are flying at half-mast at military bases across the nation in respect for the congressman.

"No man ever lived who was more wholeheartedly dedicated to the defense of this nation than MENDEL RIVERS. Those of us who are convinced that a strong defense is our main hope for a continued peace have lost a champion," said Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga.

Sheriff John E. Seigler of Colleton County said of RIVERS' death: "It's one of the greatest losses South Carolina has suffered since the War Between the States. He was the father of South Carolina."

"He never got away from his people," said Berkeley County Sheriff John W. Hill. "I've never known a man in public life who thought of his people as RIVERS did."

"He was my idea of a statesman. A man who staunchly advocated those things that were good for his country regardless of their impact upon his own future. He will be sorely missed by Charlestonians, by South Carolinians and by all Americans," said Gen. Mark Clark, former chief of Allied Forces in Korea and president emeritus of The Citadel.

Among others who have publicly paid tribute to RIVERS are Brig. Gen. Thomas R. Kennedy, commander of the 437th Military Airlift Wing at the Charleston Air Force Base; Rear Adm. Charles N. Payne, commander of the Charleston Navy Shipyard; Brig. Gen. Claire T. Ireland, Jr., vice commander of the 21st Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; Maj. Gen. O. F. Peatross, commanding officer of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island; and Gen. James Duckett, president of The Citadel.

Also Mayor Gaillard; evangelist Billy Graham; Gov. McNair; governor-elect John West; Rep. F. Edward Hébert, D-La.; James B. Edwards, First

Congressional District Republican Party chairman; S.C. Rep. F. Julian Leamond; S.C. Sen. Robert B. Scarborough; S.C. Rep. Brantley Harvey, Jr., S.C. Rep. James H. Moss; and Wilmot Riley of the State Executive Committee.

[From the (Hilton Head Island, S.C.) Island Packett, Dec. 31, 1970]

L. Mendel Rivers

Much as L. Mendel Rivers will be missed as a man, his death was a greater loss to this shore. His personality pleased many and disturbed some but he seemed almost to assure a permanent strength for the South Carolina Low Country in the affairs of the nation.

Now while it is to be hoped that an able successor may be chosen, no man can quickly replace him. It required thirty years in Congress for Representative Rivers to acquire the place and power he possessed in the Capitol and the Pentagon. Indeed, in this military age he was, as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, one of the most powerful men in the republic. He exercised that power in the service of his country. Also he so carefully tended the interests of his district that citizens erected a monument to him in his lifetime.

This region has been enriched as a result of his seniority in Congress, particularly in its military and marine installations. Now under this system of seniority in the selection of committee chairmen, the man who follows him will have to begin at the bottom in the slow ascent to power. His job will not be so great but probably more difficult than Mendel Rivers' tasks were in his last years. This makes it essential that the constituents he served select the ablest citizen available for the sadly empty seat.

[From the Charleston (S.C.) Evening Post, Dec. 30, 1970]

Representative Rivers Buried Near His Birthplace—Services Held at St. Stephen

(By Charles Hunter)

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, champion of the serviceman and defender of the military, was laid to rest today in the small Lowcounty county where he was born 65 years ago.

Funeral services for the Charleston congressman were held at Grace Episcopal Church cemetery at St. Stephen, about 40 miles from Charleston.

The nation's top military and governmental leaders as well as his "own people" attended the funeral and burial.

The 65-year-old congressman died early Monday, 17 days after he underwent open heart surgery at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham.

A ceremonial unit of military pallbearers from Fort Myer near Arlington

Cemetery in Washington, D.C., carried the casket from the church for the trip to St. Stephen.

The services opened with the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers". Later the "Navy hymn" ("Eternal Father Strong To Save") was sung.

About two-thirds of Grace Church was reserved for the family and the official party from Washington. Admittance to the church was on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, rector of Grace Church, officiated at the funeral services. The regular Episcopal service for the dead was used.

Mr. Meadowcroft was assisted by the Rev. John A. Hamrick, president of the Baptist College at Charleston; the Rev. Carl McIntyre of Collingswood, N.J.; and the Rev. Michael Jones, assistant rector of Grace Church.

The fiery Democrat, whose 6-foot-3 frame and flowing white hair made him the vision of a Southern lawmaker, was chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee.

Thousands of Charlestonians and Lowcountry residents and servicemen from near by bases had filed through Grace Church to pay their last respects to Rep. Rivers, who served the state and his district in the U.S. House for 30 years. He had been re-elected without opposition last month to his 16th consecutive term.

An estimated 7,500 persons visited the church to pay their last respects before the services.

The Congressman's casket was placed in the nave of the 122-year-old Episcopal Church early yesterday and the doors to the church were open all night for mourners to pay their last respects.

A five-man honor guard representing all the military services stood guard over the closed casket during the night. A guard of city firemen stood beside the casket during the daylight hours yesterday and today. The casket had been opened during the day, but was closed at 9 p.m. when the honor guard began its vigil. The bronze casket was unadorned except for the flag. The congressman's family had requested that in place of flowers, donations be sent to a heart fund at the University of Alabama Hospital.

The congressman's childhood and early political friends were among the steady stream of mourners who filed by the casket. A steady rain fell during most of the day after the church was opened at 10 a.m. yesterday to visitors, but the cold drizzle did not deter the mourners.

The Visitors included men in work clothes, bearded youths and miniskirted girls, young children and elderly persons who had to be assisted into the church. All races were represented in the parade of mourners. Servicemen and women from nearby military bases also visited the casket of the congressman who spent much of his life battling for funds for the military.

Mourners came throughout the night to file past the flag-draped casket in the historic church and scores more poured in at dawn today to pay their respects before heading off to work.

Rep. Rivers was buried near the graves of his parents in the St. Stephens Episcopal Churchyard. Born in the small Berkeley County community of Gumville in 1905, Rep. Rivers moved with his family shortly afterwards to

a farm near St. Stephen. The congressman actually spent most of his childhood in North Charleston where his family moved after his father died.

Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird represented President Nixon at the funeral, and leaders from across the South, including Gov.-Elect George Wallace of Alabama, outgoing Gov. Lester Maddox of Georgia, and Gov. John Bell Williams of Mississippi, also paid their respects—along with many top military and government officials.

The gothic church accommodates only about 650 persons, but speaker systems were set up at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul at Coming and Vanderhorst Streets and the Summerall Chapel on The Citadel campus to handle the anticipated overflow crowd. An additional 200 seats were set up in the church's parish hall at Glebe and Wentworth streets.

The Charleston Naval Shipyard held memorial services honoring Rep. Rivers. Employees of the shipyard and the Naval Supply Center attended the 11:30 a.m. service in front of the yard power plant. Rear Adm. Charles M. Payne, shipyard commander, and Sixth Naval District chaplains participated in the service.

A memorial service was conducted at the same time at Washington's National Cathedral, which President Nixon was expected to attend.

The official party from Washington arrived at noon aboard two planes. Included among the approximately 200 persons on the planes were Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., Navy; Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army; Gen. John D. Ryan, Air Force, and Gen. Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., Marine Corps. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also attended the services.

Members of the Armed Services Committee attended the services, also arriving in Charleston about noon. South Carolina's entire congressional delegation also came to Charleston for the funeral. Gov. McNair led a number of state, county and city officials to the funeral services.

[From the Dallas (Tex.) Morning News, Dec. 29, 1970]

L. Mendel Rivers Dies in Alabama

Birmingham, Ala.—Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee, whose unyielding Defense of the military won him the praise of presidents and privates alike, died here Monday of heart failure.

The 65-year-old South Carolina Democrat had undergone openheart surgery at University Hospital Dec. 11 to correct a deficiency thought inherited from childhood, but he failed to fully respond.

Doctors had said that without the operation, Rivers, a 16-term congressional veteran, would have become an invalid.

The funeral will be held Wednesday at Grace Episcopal Church in his hometown of Charleston, with burial at St. Stephens, S.C.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Margaret Rivers, a son, Lucius Mendel Rivers, Jr. of Washington, two daughters, Miss L. Marion Rivers of Los Angeles and Mrs. Robert Eastman of Wilmington, Del., and two sisters, Mrs. Blanche Odom and Mrs. Madge Danley.

Lucius Mendel Rivers believed in a mighty America. He considered tanks and ships and planes essential for the country's survival. And he thought the power should be used readily and unsparingly against the nation's enemies.

He was unmoved and unabashed by the antimilitary and antiwar sentiments that gained increasing currency during his last years and, indeed, was confident that events would sustain his more aggressive views.

As chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, he brought under his wing every man and every institution engaged in the defense effort and thought its importance entitled them to a certain leeway and forgiveness.

He considered it his responsibility—not the Defense Department's—to raise and oversee the spending of the tens of billions of dollars these men and institutions required each year, and he did so with considerable national and global effect.

Rivers was born in Gumville, S.C., a crossroads near Charleston, and in some ways he came to embody much of the temper and style associated with that aristocratic port city.

Certainly he handled programs and budgets, hearings and debates, admirals and bureaucrats with the unwavering and almost imperious assurance of a blooded grandee whose sensibilities are firm and set.

He studied the details of military operations, installations, and hardware with diligence, and it was said that he could identify any American plane on sight and could remember the type of engine on craft long obsolete.

He remained a faithful ally and protector of the enlisted man, pushing through substantial pay increases and other benefits for them. He himself never served.

Soldiers in the field could, and did, write to Rivers about their troubles, and he was usually pleased to challenge the brass in their cause.

Rivers had an explosive temper, and he could be bullying in committee and harsh on the floor. But he also possessed a sense of humor (including, a colleague said, the ability to laugh at himself) and a soft, easy charm.

Rivers worked his way through three years at the College of Charleston and two at the University of South Carolina law school.

He was admitted to the bar in 1932, and from 1933 to 1936, he served in the South Carolina House of Representatives. He then worked four years as a special attorney for the Department of Justice.

It was during this time that he met Margaret Simons Middleton, a Charleston debutante. They were married Sept. 1, 1938, and had three children.

He won a come-from-behind election to Congress on Nov. 5, 1940, and, with the help of James Byrnes, then a powerful South Carolina senator, obtained an empty seat on the old Naval Affairs Committee.

Rivers emerged as perhaps the least conservative member of South Carolina's congressional delegation. He supported housing sudsidies, the food stamp program, some antipoverty bills and mass transit measures.

And few doubted his value in at least one sense: He packed the area around Charleston with defense installations to a degree unusual even for Southern members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

The Army has a depot there; the Navy a base, a shipyard, a supply center, a hospital, a weapons station, and other facilities; the Air Force a base; the Marines an air station and a training center; the Coast Guard a station and mine warfare center.

Their combined payrolls are said to account for more than a third of the area's total, and during Rivers' chairmanship five or six major defense contractors established plants there with contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars more.

Some in Washington search periodically for evidence that Rivers promoted defense mainly because of local and even personal benefits received in the process, but none was ever found.

Rivers assumed the committee chairmanship in January, 1965, just before the first major escalations of the war in Vietnam.

He gave the military leaders most of what they wanted and some things they hadn't even thought about, and he worked hard at restricting the policy-setting authority of the civilian manager in the Pentagon.

There was a time when the chairman had a problem with alcohol, and the late columnist, Drew Pearson, denounced him as a security risk. The House rallied immediately and praised Rivers in extensive floor speeches.

One of the strongest came from the speaker, John McCormack. "Mendel Rivers is one of the greatest Americans I have ever met," he said of his close friend. In his later years, Rivers swore off drinking entirely.

[From the Washington (D.C.) Post, Dec. 29, 1970]

L. Mendel Rivers Dies; Champion of Military

(By William Greider)

Lucius Mendel Rivers, congressional godfather to the military, died early yesterday, the flamboyant champion of the lowliest GIs and of the mightiest defense contractors.

His body was flown in an Air Force jet from Birmingham, Ala., to Charleston, S.C., where his funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Grace Episcopal Church. He will be buried at St. Stephen, S.C., near the graves of his parents.

Rep. Rivers was 65 years old and at the pinnacle of his authority as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, where he stood for superior military strength as America's best security for a peaceful future.

Yet, in the midst of a troubling war and deep domestic strife, the South

Carolina congressman also came to be a living symbol of "the military-industrial complex"—that mixture of patriotism and pork-barrel politics which seems ever in quest of larger defense budgets.

He will be best remembered, probably, as a congressional figure with his own flavorful style, the flowing white hair, the tart tongue, the occasional demands for a warrior's vengeance, the single-mindedness which seemed courageous to his friends, dictatorial and dangerous to his opponents.

"You are the only crowd who must die," RIVERS told an audience of soldiers once. "You haven't done a thing for me but save me in four world wars . . . Of course, you have enemies—not just in Hanoi, you got enemies in Washington."

President Nixon led the national tributes to the congressman, who died 17 days after undergoing open-heart surgery at the University of Alabama hospital.

"I have lost a friend upon whom I could rely in times of great difficulty," the President said. "South Carolina has lost one of the most distinguished men in her history and America has lost a patriot."

Three months ago, when he was shepherding the massive military-procurement bill through the House, RIVERS gravely warned his colleagues again of the Soviet threat and his fear that the U.S. "seems hell-bent on national suicide" with its failure to develop new armaments.

Yet the powerful congressman pleaded also with his critics not to dismiss his warning "as the shrill cries of a hawk who is suffering the agonies of reduced expenditures."

USED TO BEING HEEDED

In Congress, despite the wave of anti-Pentagon sentiment in the last three years, RIVERS was used to being heeded during his career, whether he was pushing pay raises for the troops or a new cargo transport for the Air Force or a vast ship-building program for the Navy or a government subsidy to help a private company sell jet planes to other nations.

In the military, he was continuously applauded and honored. Just a few weeks before his death, grateful GIs in Vietnam sent him a hat with six stars on it, inscribed in gold to "the big boss." They were thanking RIVERS for his success in engineering special reduced air fares so many of them could fly home for Christmas.

The armed services thanked him, also, by delivering to his congressional district and his hometown of Charleston, S.C., a remarkable array of defense installations—air bases, supply depots, hospitals, shipyards, missile facilities and others, not to mention the defense contractors who opened plants there.

HONORS IN CHARLESTON

In Charleston, they dedicated a bust of the Congressman on Rivers Avenue and named a suburban subdivision "MenRiv Park." In Vietnam, the main thoroughfare at the Army base outside Pleiku is Mendel Rivers Parkway.

To RIVERS' critics, his nine-county First District was one of the grossest

examples of how politicians and Pentagon planners scratch one another's backs—more ships, more planes, more contracts and, in return, more goodies for the folks back home.

To friends and admirers, RIVERS' fortification of Charleston was a subject for public banter. When the D.C. chapter of the Air Force Association honored the congressman at an award luncheon this year, Vice President Spiro Agnew offered this tongue-in-cheek appraisal:

"I would like to lay to rest the ugly, vicious, dastardly rumor that he is trying to move the Pentagon piecemeal to South Carolina . . . I have had it clearly explained to me that the military facilities so evident in that area are a testament of MENDEL RIVERS' unselfish willingness to allow his own First District of South Carolina to accept, in the national interest, military installations which just HAD to be put someplace. . . .

"Even when it looked like Charleston might sink into the sea from the burden, MENDEL RIVERS' patriotic response was, 'I regret that I have but one congressional district to give my country to—I mean to give to my country.' "

WIT UNMATCHABLE

But no one could match the congressman's own pungent wit, when he twitted opponents in public oratory. During the 1960s, when RIVERS held running skirmishes with the civilian managers at the Pentagon, he broke up military audiences with this description of McNamara's "whiz kids":

"The only powder those people have ever smelled is talcum powder. The only war they have been in is the BOOD-war."

But sometimes the humor was replaced by a martial note of vengeance. RIVERS proposed a nuclear ultimatum to North Korea two years ago unless the adversary promptly returned the USS Pueblo and her crew. "I'd make positive that at least one of her cities would disappear from the face of the earth," he said.

ONLY ONE ANSWER

His strategy for Vietnam was equally blunt, "Words are fruitless, diplomatic notes are useless," he thundered on one occasion. "There can be only one answer for America—retaliation, retaliation, retaliation. They say 'Quit the bombing,' I say: 'Bomb'."

RIVERS never served in uniform himself, but he looked the part of the elder warrior. On the House floor or presiding on the dais of his committee chamber, he was ramrod erect with a flowing crown of snow-white hair. When a Senate critic referred to him as "Julius Caesar," RIVERS seemed flattered by the comparison.

In his manner of speaking, RIVERS displayed that special blend peculiar to the best politicians of the South—a graceful command of the language, but punctuated with crude thunder, like the warm flavor of good bourbon going down, followed by the husky kick.

He was chairman of the House committee for six years and he drew his power from serving the vast array of people and interests who depend upon

its legislative products—the soldiers, the contractors, the Pentagon strategists.

But RIVERS reached his position of power simply by staying in Congress—surviving faithfully for 25 years until his chairman, former Rep. Carl Vinson, of Georgia, decided to retire in 1964 at the age of 81.

RIVERS was born in Gumville, S.C., near a place called Hell Hole Swamp, in the low country of the Palmetto State's coastal plain. His father farmed and ran a turpentine-still and died when MENDEL was eight years old. His mother lost the family place and moved her six children to North Charleston were she took in boarders.

RIVERS grew up, determined by the experience, to be a lawyer. He worked in a grocery store, delivered newspapers by pony-back, played outfield for a semi-pro team.

TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

He attended the College of Charleston and law school at the University of South Carolina just long eough to pass the bar exam in 1932. After two terms in the South Carolina legislature, he came to Washington for four years as a special attorney in the Justice Department.

When he married Charleston debutante Margaret Middleton, she noted immediately that he was destined for a political future.

At the wedding, she recalled years later, RIVERS turned from the alter and worked his way up the church aisle, shaking hands and greeting folks.

FEW OPPONENTS

In 1940, against the advice of older, more influential politicians, RIVERS ran for Congress. His campaign was styled against "the Charleston crowd" and won with the heavy support from the rural counties in the district. He never had serious opposition after that. In all but two or three elections, he didn't even have opponents.

When RIVERS entered the 77th Congress as a freshman, he was appointed to the Naval Affairs Committee. Vinson of Georgia was chairman. At war's end, the defense realignment made it the Armed Services Committee and, through the years, RIVERS moved gradually up the seniority ladder without any spectacular events along the way.

WON A NICKNAME

Indeed, in his early congressional days, RIVERS won the nickname of "OLEO" RIVERS for his colorful and successful campaign to repeal the federal tax on oleomargarine (a product manufactured from cottonseed and soybean oils native to his district).

"Butter will kill you deader than Job's turkey," RIVERS once warned his fellow congressmen, "but eat a little margarine and you will look like a million dollars."

When Vinson retired and RIVERS became chairman in 1965, he introduced a more combative style to the committee's disputes with the Pentagon—particularly the management of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara.

Rivers used to remind audiences that McNamara's middle name is "Strange."

The congressman listened to the generals and admirals who found their counsel unheeded by their Pentagon boss and he fought many of their battles for them, legislating new weaponry which McNamara didn't want or refused to employ.

On his committee dais, surrounded by flags and battle ribbons, Rivers had the constitutional language inscribed on a walnut plaque:

"The Congress shall have power . . . To raise and support Armies . . . provide and maintain a Navy . . . and make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces."

CARBINE OVER DOOR

The chairman frequently reminded the executive branch of that congressional mandate. Indeed, he was accorded the trappings of a military leader, the award plaques and pictures of admirals and generals on his office walls, his frequent inspection junkets to overseas bases, the AK–47 carbine over his door, captured from the Communists in Vietnam.

Each year, his Capitol Hill luncheon, featuring Carolina quail and Charleston she-crab soup, brought together the diverse elements of the "military-industrial complex" from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to contractors to fellow defense-minded congressmen.

Over the years, he pushed very hard to double presidential proposals for military pay raises, usually successfully. He also tried to enact a congressional veto over military base-closings—and failed.

SOUGHT FLEET OVERHAUL

He was in the forefront of the congressional pressure to get the Navy into nuclear-powered vessels, particularly submarines. At his death, his current crusade was a campaign to overhaul the entire fleet—most of which, he insisted, was dangerously obsolete or in disrepair.

In the air, he fought through the 1960s for the air transport capability of the C–141s and, more recently, the controversial C–5–A.

His most remarkable personal victory, in recent years, was his lobbying to sell Congress—and the Air Force—on a government subsidy to help produce an international fighter plane made by American industry which could be given or sold to U.S. allies. This session, he won, and the first contracts have been awarded on the $1.1 billion program.

LITTLE DISSENT

In all of this, the chairman found little dissent among his committee members, partly because he dealt swiftly with those junior members who strayed from his line of priorities. One New York congressman found himself passed over for a subcommittee chairmanship because he was a member of the "fearless five" which often opposed Rivers in committee sessions.

Rivers himself once summed up the congenial atmosphere over which he presided: "We get along just fine. There aren't more than five or six troublesome fellows on a committee of 40. I call that a pretty good average. If I can't meet that, God help Mendel Rivers."

[From the Columbia (S.C.) State, Dec. 29, 1970]

Rivers to be Buried at St. Stephens Site

FUNERAL SERVICES TO BE HELD IN CHARLESTON

L. Mendel Rivers, a South Carolina farm boy who matured into one of the nation's most powerful lawmakers, will be buried Wednesday near the graves of his parents in the quiet community of St. Stephen.

The 65-year-old congressman, who died Monday in a Birmingham, Ala., hospital of heart failure, was flown to his home town of Charleston Monday. Mrs. Rivers arrived a short time earlier by private jet plane.

WEDNESDAY

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. in Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston, with burial in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Cemetary in St. Stephen.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Margaret Middleton Rivers; two daughters, Mrs. Robert Eastman of Wilmington, Del., and Miss Lois Marion Rivers of Los Angeles a son, Lucius Mendel Rivers Jr. of Charleston; and two sisters, Mrs. Blanche Odom of Charleston and Mrs. Madge Danley of Bradenton, Fla.

Stuhr's Funeral Home in Charleston is in charge.

TRIBUTES

Tributes poured in from across the nation for the man who, as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, helped chart the course of America's defenses for so long.

President Nixon said, "I have lost a friend upon whom I could rely in times of great difficulty."

Gov. Robert E. McNair called Rivers a "symbol to all the world that this nation believed in freedom" and said he served his state with "unequaled effectiveness and distinction."

SPOKESMAN

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., described Democrat Rivers as a great spokesman for national preparedness.

"No man in America, including our presidents, has done more for our national defense than Mendel Rivers," Thurmond said.

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., said, "Mr. Rivers had the courage of his convictions and never failed to stand up for his beliefs, even when they were unpopular."

Rivers, who gained a reputation as a hard fighter during his 30 years in Congress, fought death for 17 days, coming back several times after his heart had ceased to beat.

He entered University Hospital in Birmingham Dec. 8 on the recommendation of doctors who had examined him in Atlanta, Ga., Washington and Miami, Fla. Mendel Davis, a Rivers aide, said the examining physicians recommended he see Dr. John Kirklin of the University staff.

Davis said that in recent months Rivers' activities had to be limited because of his failing heart, thought to be the aftermath of a childhood bout with rheumatic fever.

Following extensive tests at University Hospital, Rivers underwent open-heart surgery Dec. 11 to replace a defective mitral valve with a plastic one. The surgery was declared successful and the recovery appeared to be progressing normally.

STRONGER

On Dec. 20 the hospital said Rivers was growing stronger by the day and no more routine condition statements would be issued. But just a few hours later, Rivers suffered a heart stoppage. A resident physician on stand-by was able to restart the heart beat.

The congressman remained in serious condition from then on but doctors reported he was making some slow progress.

Then Sunday afternoon, Rivers suffered another reverse. His heart stopped beating several times in the afternoon and each time was restarted but each time with some additional deterioration in heart function.

At 1:40 a.m. (CST) Monday, his heart again stopped. This time efforts to revive him failed.

Two physicians and several nurses were at the bedside. His family was staying at a nearby motel.

Rivers, in his capacity as the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, was one of the most powerful voices in Congress for U.S. military superiority.

First in line for Rivers' chairmanship is Rep. Philip J. Philbin, D-Mass., but he was defeated in the November election so he would be chairman for only the few remaining days of the 91st Congress.

Thus, under Congress' seniority system, Rep. F. Edward Hébert, D-La., will be the committee's top Democrat in the next Congress and will succeed Rivers as chairman. Hébert (pronounced A-bear) headed a special My Lai subcommittee which concluded last summer that field military and State Department officers in Vietnam tried to cover up the alleged massacre.

Rivers betrayed no sign he was about to undergo heart surgery when he won house approval Dec. 7 of a resolution commending the commando raid on a North Vietnam POW camp. His speech was filled with the pungent

phrases—"This crowd of savages in Hanoi"—and booming oratory that characterized his floor debating.

With flowing white hair and an erect 6'3" frame, he was the Hollywood idea of a Congressman and he liked to lace his debates with quotations from poetry and the Bible.

His five-year chairmanship of the committee was marked by tough language—"Retaliate! Retaliate! Retaliate!" he boomed after Hanoi's Tet offensive on South Vietnam—and determination to maintain military superiority over the Soviets.

"We're on the brink of disaster," he told the House this year in a speech on the Soviet threat. "If we're not already a second-rate naval power, we're perilously close to becoming one."

Rivers later announced he would try to put through Congress next year a more than $5 billion modernization of the Navy.

Some of his critics contended he used the Soviet threat and the power of his chairmanship to ride roughshod over honest efforts to re-order priorities for an adequate defense, that would leave money for urban problems and other social ills.

His backers contended that the House turned aside virtually every effort to cut billions of dollars out of Rivers' defense bills in a concerted drive over the past two years simply because it agreed with Rivers and not the spending critics.

The controversy was nothing new for the outspoken Rivers.

Early in the Korean War he urged President Harry S Truman to use the atomic bomb if the Communists didn't pull back. During President John F. Kennedy's administration he urged an invasion of Cuba. Soon after becoming chairman of the Armed Services Committee in 1965, he sided with Pentagon generals in a running feud against then Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara's efforts to exert more civilian control over the military.

Rivers once told the House his committee "is the only voice, the official voice, the military has in the House of Representatives." And he was not reluctant to defend it.

He sometimes pointedly praised defense contractors by name when they were under fire for cost overruns or other problems.

Rivers was sensitive about criticism of the so-called military industrial complex. "The longer the war lasts in Vietnam, the more somebody's going to make out of it," he said in an interview. "I don't believe anyone should make money out of people dying."

"I'm supposed to be the granddaddy of the hawks," he said, "and I think we should get it over with as fast as possible."

Critics also lambasted Rivers at various points in his career about his problems as a drinker, which he said in recent years was a problem of the past. He was criticized as a junketer, largely on the basis of annual trips

with military brass to the Paris Air Show and frequent Armed Services Committee investigating trips.

He was also known by critics and admirers alike as a hard worker, routinely arriving in his office before 7 a.m. and staying late. RIVERS was proud of his reputation as a friend of the GI.

He won a 410–0 House approval of a 10.7 per cent military-pay raise shortly after becoming Armed Services Chairman. His name is on hundreds of laws benefiting servicemen and their families.

Just a few weeks ago, admiring servicemen returning from Vietnam presented RIVERS with an Admiral's cap with an "honorary" Six-Star rank.

[From the Enterprise (Mullins, S.C.), Dec. 31, 1970]

CONGRESSMAN RIVERS CLAIMED BY DEATH

Final tributes to U.S. Congressman L. MENDEL RIVERS of Charleston came from all parts of the world after announcement was made of the death of this veteran congressman who was regarded as one of the most powerful men in Washington and a legend in his own district and throughout South Carolina.

Funeral services for Congressman RIVERS were scheduled for one o'clock Wednesday in Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston.

Flags dropped to half staff and expressions of grief and sorrow came from many areas of the nation.

Representative John L. McMillan, dean of the state's congressional delegation, said that "South Carolina has lost one of its most valuable citizens and certainly one of the most outstanding legislators that has ever represented our state."

Governor Robert E. McNair noted that "Congressman RIVERS was a great statesman and leader, who served his country with love and dedication and brought honor and dignity to his state. He was a man of peace who understood the sacrifices which must be made to preserve and defend it."

President Nixon issued the statement: "For 30 years, MENDEL RIVERS served the state of South Carolina with dignity, with distinction and with high integrity in the Congress of the United States. Throughout his career, Congressman RIVERS held unswervingly to the belief that the freedom that exists in the modern world is inextricably tied to the military strength of the United States. He fought for that belief in committee, in the Congress, in the country."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 31, 1970]

Final Tributes to Rivers To Begin Here Today

AIR FORCE JET BRINGS BODY HOME

(By Barbara S. Williams)

Final tributes to Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, the silver-maned congressman from Charleston who was regarded as one of the most powerful men in Washington and a legend in his own district, will begin today.

His body, which was brought home to Charleston Monday in a white Air Force jet after his death in Birmingham, Ala., will lie in repose in Grace Episcopal Church, beginning at 10 a.m. The church will remain open all night.

The funeral for the veteran congressman, who died 17 days after open heart surgery, will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

The rector of Grace Episcopal Church, the Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Michael Jones, assistant rector; the Rev. John A. Hamrick, president of the Baptist College; and the Rev. Carl McIntire of Collingswood, N.J.

Burial will be in the St. Stephen Episcopal Churchyard, where the congressman's parents are buried, directed by Stuhr's.

The Rivers family will receive friends at their home, 9 Palmetto Rd., after 10 a.m. today. Survivors include the congressman's widow, Mrs. Margaret Middleton Rivers; a son, Lucius Mendel Rivers, of Charleston; and two daughters, Mrs. Robert G. Eastman of Wilmington, Del., and Miss Lois Marion Rivers of Los Angeles, Calif.

President Richard M. Nixon has designated Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, who will be accompanied by the joint chiefs of staff, to head an official delegation to the funeral. Members of Rivers' House Armed Services Committee are expected to arrive in Charleston today.

CAME TO ATTENTION

The tributes to the congressman actually began in Charleston Monday when the jet bearing his body touched down shortly before 3 p.m.

As if almost by signal, airmen working on the C–141 Starlifters came to attention and hurrying vehicles came to a halt as the casket carrying Rivers' body was lowered from the airplane and carried through a line formed by a 16-man honor guard.

The man who first went to Congress 30 years ago when the odds said he couldn't make it, had appeared to be making a remarkable recovery from open heart surgery performed Dec. 11.

However, his heart stopped 10 days later at the end of a "happy and comfortable day" and the beating action had to be restarted by a fast-acting physician.

Rivers appeared to be back on the road to recovery until late last week when his condition again deteriorated.

HOSPITAL STATEMENT

A spokesman at the University of Alabama Hospital issued this statement:

"Beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Cong. RIVERS suffered another series of cessation of heart action from ventricular fibrillation. These were preceded by some deterioration in heart function.

"The persistent tendency toward this type of irregularity indicated continuation of the long-standing, pre-operative heart failure.

"Cong. RIVERS died at 1:40 a.m. (CST) Dec. 28, of continuing heart failure."

The announcement more than two weeks ago that RIVERS was in Birmingham, Ala., for extensive tests at the hospital came as a surprise to all but his closest friends.

There had been no noticeable lag in the pace of the vigorous, 65-year-old congressman and his recent speeches gave no indication he had lost any of his fire.

ROASTING OLD FOE

During a speech only a week before in Newport News, Va., he still was roasting his old foe, former Defense Secretary Robert S-T-R-A-N-G-E McNamara.

However, reports from his office later stated that the heart condition apparently dated back from a bout with rheumatic fever when RIVERS was a child and that it had caused his increasing discomfort in recent months.

RIVERS said shortly before his operation that he didn't recall ever having rheumatic fever as a child but had heard it could develop from a strep throat.

The RIVERS childhood was part of the RIVERS legend.

BORN IN GUMVILLE

Born Sept. 28, 1905, the boy from the small Berkeley County community of Gumville was a son of Lucius Hampton Rivers, a small turpentine still operator, and Henrietta Marion McKay Rivers.

Shortly afterwards, his family moved to a farm near St. Stephen, and RIVERS never lost the habit of getting up early.

RIVERS' father died when he was in the second grade. The family moved to North Charleston and young MENDEL had a variety of odd jobs to help out.

He got up at 4 a.m. in order to deliver a paper route, milk cows and get the trolley to school, which was 10 miles away.

One of his earliest jobs was at 13, when he was water boy for the laboring gang building the Charleston Transportation Depot in connection with the war effort.

SEMI-PRO BASEBALL

As he grew older, the summer work became more pleasant. RIVERS worked with companies that sponsored semi-professional baseball teams around Charleston and was proud of his hitting ability.

In later years when he played in the annual congressional games held in Washington for charity, he used to say he had, "the highest batting average in disorganized baseball."

Rather than a professional career in baseball, however, RIVERS went to the College of Charleston for three years and then transferred to the University of South Carolina Law School.

RIVERS used to cite the hardships of his early years in discussing his vote on certain issues after he arrived in Congress.

"I had an awfully hard time when I was a young fellow," he once said. "I knew poverty like nobody else in the South Carolina delegation ever did. Whenever I can help the man in the street, I'll do it."

RIVERS got his first constituency at the tender age of 28, when he was elected to General Assembly from Charleston. He was elected to two terms (1933–36) and was chairman of the delegation for two years.

When RIVERS first went to Washington it was as a special attorney in the U.S. Justice Dept. from 1936 to 1940 and during that time was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court.

But, Congress was his goal. RIVERS used to say he always knew he was going to go to Congress and it only was a matter of when to run.

There were a lot of political experts who disagreed with the timing he chose during the election of 1940. The organization was against him and RIVERS had little campaign funds.

However, he used that personal touch he never lost and left no hand unshook during his travels around the district.

When the returns began coming in that night, there were only a few supporters gathered with RIVERS to listen to the results over a battered radio. As it became clear that RIVERS had scored a major upset, the office was mobbed with people who said they knew it all along.

In 15 elections since that time, no one came close to upsetting RIVERS.

RIVERS, however, never took his own election for granted and waged vigorous campaigns the few times he had token opposition. Even when there was no opposition. RIVERS didn't forget the poll workers, that grass roots of political organization.

In fact, during the recent November general election, some 800 of those workers got a piping hot chicken dinner, courtesy of their congressman.

L. MENDEL RIVERS just looked like he ought to be in Washington. The tall South Carolinian and his long, flowing white hair soon became famous at the Capitol.

He was a colorful orator; loved poetry and would often quote at length from memory to make a point in an address.

Three months after he arrived in Congress, RIVERS began attending "Vinson University"—which is what the alumni call committees run by Carl Vinson, Georgia's famous lawmaker who retired in 1965 after 50 consecutive years in the House.

Among fellow students at Vinson U. at the time was Lyndon B. Johnson. The former President called the hospital several times to inquire about RIVERS condition after surgery.

Rivers moved with Vinson from the old House Naval Affairs to which he was appointed in 1941, to the Armed Services Committee following the unification act in 1947.

Rivers once was quoted as saying: "The greatest thing that ever happened to me is that I worked under Mr. Vinson."

Although Rivers later was to gain national fame as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, he first drew attention outside South Carolina with his fight in the early 1940s to get the tax off margarine.

He made so many speeches on the subject his colleagues used to call him "Oleo" Rivers.

Margarine at that time was made from cotton seed oil, which was from the Rivers area of the country, although none was produced in the First District. The Midwestern dairy farmers led the lobbying against margarine, fearing it would cut into their dairy business.

The needs of wartime helped win the battle for Rivers. Ironically, most margarine now is made from soy bean oil and Midwestern farmers benefit as much from its sale as their Southern counterparts.

Another early victory for Rivers was legislation creating the Navy Dental Corps. He had always taken a special interest in medical and dental corps personnel and later headed a special subcommittee that made an exhaustive study of hospital construction policy and the problem of promised military retirees and their dependents.

Rivers also has cited as a satisfying achievement his work in improving military airlift. He also served a stint as chairman of the Reserve subcommittee of the House Armed Services unit and authored the Reserve Readjustment Pay bill.

Rivers continued to stay in Congress because the voters obviously wanted him there and thus inched up the ladder of seniority.

When Vinson retired six years ago, Rivers was his heir apparent.

Rivers' care of his home town folks already had become legend. Vinson was credited with what now has become a famous quote: "Mendel, if you put another thing down in that district, it's going to sink."

Charleston's economy had become much fatter not only as a result of the growing military payroll but the location of military-related industry and Rivers unquestionably was considered the benefactor.

In fact, when the congressman had Negro opposition in 1968, he also got votes in the heavy Negro wards. Politicians later concluded that blacks were just as interested as whites in the economics of things.

Throughout his career, Rivers has been absorbed in his job of being a congressman. Best known for his involvement with the military, he has touched virtually all aspects of the military program: pay and other personnel benefits legislation, the Reserve, airlift, hospital construction policy, shipyards, weapons procurement.

He championed increased pay for military personnel with these words: "The members of the armed forces are entitled to a standard of living equal to the standard of living they are defending."

While RIVERS was in the hospital, hundreds of telegraphs from military personnel all over the world poured into Birmingham. One of those telegrams seemed to sum up the sentiment: "You've rooted for us for years, now it's our turn for you."

RIVERS was the champion of the military, although ironically he had never served in the Armed Forces.

He made no secret of his incompatibility with former Defense Secretary McNamara and battled with the secretary on many fronts, including personnel benefits, military hospital construction, weapons procurement and the necessity for adding nuclear-powered frigates to the Navy. He was an outspoken proponent of military spending and a staunch advocate of pursuing a "hard line" in Vietnam.

As busy as his schedule was, the congressman always took time out to answer a complaint or a request from an individual serviceman. Mail from his constituents was answered the same day it was received and his staff kept up that record during his hospitalization.

He urged free military travel for wives and dependents of American prisoners of war in North Vietnam. He recently took several hours out of a busy day to talk and lunch with a visiting delegation of POW wives from Louisiana.

RIVERS, in fact, delayed his departure for Birmingham and the operation to push through a resolution praising a recent effort to rescue POW's. One of his last official acts was bring about low-cost stateside Christmas leaves for servicemen involved in the Indochinese conflict.

He had other plans for the military next year. He announced his determination during the keel laying for the USS South Carolina several weeks ago to "catch up" with the Soviet Navy and promised that the new budget would allow that progress.

He seemed particularly pleased during those ceremonies that the spotlight was on another Rivers—his wife of 32 years. Margaret Middleton Rivers, who had remained in the background throughout the years, was a center of attention that day and RIVERS was beaming.

That same day, an old RIVERS friend, Vice Admiral H. G. Rickover delivered a tribute to the congressman.

Rickover said:

"It is an ungrateful task to try to sum up a man's character in a few words, but in the case of MENDEL RIVERS much will have been said when I have stated that he is an American and a patriot, because he is one as much as the other and he is both intensely.

"There is no use trying to explain him by reducing a versatile man to one or two main talents. He cannot be judged in the way some people judge an eagle by noting how he walks on the ground. An eagle must be judged by its majestic flight into the sky.

"He has been obliged to make his own way by his own abilities and enterprise, but the advantages in intelligence and ambition were given him by his parents. He has used these well and has augmented them by his own ability and ambition.

"No smooth path of wealth or patronage was offered to him. Whatever power he has acquired has been grudgingly given. He has had to fight every mile of his road through life. Nothing came easily to him, not even oratory in which he excels.

"He is one of the great men of our Congress. He is dedicated to peace, but aware of the awesome responsibility our nation bears in defense of our freedom. Where our national security is involved he is brave, resolute, and stubborn. His legislative acts are heroic; they speak of struggle and triumph; they reflect his pragmatic ability.

"No man possesses in so high a degree as he the peculiar awareness of military realities. His efforts in behalf of American security are tireless. He has a marvelous gift for stepping beyond the appearance of things, going beyond it and penetrating to the very essence of the matter.

"He is one of the most unintimidable men in the United States. He knows that a good leader is doing his job when half the people are following him and half are chasing him.

". . . He has named, numbered and made perceptible, even to those who disagree with him, all the national verities that animate and sustain us and that breath in our blood.

"He does his duty as if he were going to live forever, and casts his plans way ahead. He feels responsible without time limitation; the consideration whether he may or may not be around to see the results never enters his thoughts.

"The day will come when this man, one of our great legislators and a prophetic thinker, will be recognized at his true value," Rickover said.

Shortly after becoming chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rivers was quoted as saying:

"The woods are full of people like me. When I'm gone somebody else can take my place.

"But this is the only opportunity I'll ever have to do something for my country. I'm going to do the very best I can. This time passes awfully fast."

[From the (Columbia, S.C.) State, Dec. 31, 1970]

Rivers Is Buried in St. Stephen—Near Hell Hole Swamp

(By Kent Krell)

St. Stephen.—U.S. Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, who rose to national prominence as an adroit Congressional caretaker of America's military apparatus, was buried Wednesday near legendary Hell Hole Swamp, the moss-hung playground of his youth.

The 65-year-old Rivers, the son of a dirt farmer, was laid to rest under sunny skies in the wooded graveyard of St. Stephen Episcopal Church as many of the nation's civilian and military leaders looked on.

The husky, honeytongued chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and South Carolina's 1st District Congressman died Monday in a Birmingham, Ala., hospital following heart surgery.

Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, who represented President Nixon at the funeral and burial rites, brought the simple ceremonies to a conclusion by handing to RIVERS' widow the folded, American flag which earlier had been draped over the mahogany coffin. As he did so, 12 jet aircraft in formation followed by a single C5A, the world's largest transport plane, roared over in tribute.

Their posthumous salute was a testament to RIVERS' artful capacity for funneling federal funds into the sprawling military complex at Charleston, the hub of the 1st District.

RIVERS' son, Lucius M. Rivers Jr., a law student at Georgetown University, delivered a brief eulogy to his father's memory at the cemetery.

He said the late Congressman was "the very quintessence of some very human and very wonderful qualities . . .

"He had a dynamism and an active, ceaseless energy," said young Rivers, "which drew people like a magnet.

"He had love which once he had attracted people led them to stay . . .

"And he had courage. He chose his positions carefully. But once chosen, he never deviated or detoured. He simply didn't know how."

Earlier, a 30-minute funeral service was held at Charleston's Grace Episcopal Church, a 123-year-old Gothic structure where RIVERS' body had been lying in state since 10 a.m. Tuesday.

More than 8,000 persons were estimated to have walked past the flag-draped coffin prior to the 1 p.m. services Wednesday. The casket flanked by four candles, remained open until just before the final rites. Two members of the armed services and the local police and fire departments took turns standing as an honor guard beside the bier.

About 600 persons filled the Episcopal Church to capacity. Most were dignitaries, members of the Rivers' family or close friends. Some 1,500 persons stood outside the church. The services were piped to two other churches in Charleston, one of which was the chapel at The Citadel. There were about 1,000 persons at the graveside.

Many businesses in downtown Charleston were closed Wednesday out of respect to the memory of the Congressman.

Hundreds of persons lined the highways on the moss-draped, 48-mile route from Charleston to St. Stephen for a glimpse of the hearse.

Laird and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff sat in the front pews across the church aisle from the Rivers' family. The group included Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff and a native of Spartanburg.

South Carolina's congressional delegation was headed by Sens. Strom Thurmond and Ernest F. Hollings.

The congressional contingent, numbering close to 100, also included U.S. Sens. John Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Com-

mittee, and Stuart Symington, D-Mo., a former secretary of the Air Force; and U.S. Reps. Edward Hébert, D-La., Rivers' probable successor as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Carl Albert, D-Okla., House Democratic majority leader.

South Carolina Gov. Robert E. McNair was present as was Gov.-elect John C. West. Out-of-state Governors included John Bell Williams of Mississippi and Lester Maddox of Georgia and Gov.-elect George C. Wallace of Alabama.

Among those attending River's funeral were two colleagues from days in the S.C. General Assembly during the 1930's. They were House Speaker Solomon Blatt and State Sen. Edgar A. Brown, both of Barnwell. Present along with Gov. McNair were two other surviving members of the so-called Hell Hole Swamp Gang. They were State Sen. Rembert Dennis, D-Berkeley, and former Columbia Mayor Lester L. Bates. The Hell Hole Gang is a mythical political organization, made up of public figures raised in Berkeley County's swamp country.

The funeral and burial had marked military overtones, attesting to Rivers' influential role as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. In addition to the military brass which was much in evidence at the service, eight servicemen acted as pall bearers. Taps were blown just before Laird accepted the folded flag from one of the pall bearers.

One of three ministers participating in the final rites was the Rev. Carl McIntire, the controversial Presbyterian preacher who, like Rivers, had been an ardent advocate of military victory in the Vietnam war.

The Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, rector of Grace Episcopal conducted both ceremonies. He was assisted by McIntire and the Rev. John A. Hamrick, president of Baptist College in Charleston.

The service contained some of the hymns and poems for which the flamboyant Rivers had a particular affection. "Onward Christian Soldiers," was sung at the outset of the service. Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem, "Crossing the Bar," was read near the end of the service.

Outside Grace Episcopal, the muted chimes from a nearby church played hymns and even a soft version of "Dixie."

[From the Greenville (S.C.) News, Dec. 31, 1970]

Rep. Rivers Buried in Low Country Where He Brought Military Might

Charleston.—Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, D-S.C., was buried Wednesday in the moss-draped low country of South Carolina, an area he had turned into an arsenal bristling with military might.

The choir at the Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" at the funeral for the 65-year-old congressman, who as chairman of the House Armed Forces Committee, was credited with bringing many defense installations to the area.

The nation's military and political leaders attended the services at the historic church in the downtown section of this port city.

Many of them later went by helicopter and by automobile to the country church yard at St. Stephen, about 50 miles away, where the silver-haired congressman was buried beside the graves of his parents.

Rivers died Monday, 17 days after open heart surgery at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham to correct an ailment resulting from rheumatic fever as a child.

Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird and the five members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff sat in a front pew at the church, near the grieving family.

Many other Washington dignitaries and almost all of South Carolina's political and judicial figures attended the services on the clear but cold December day.

There were Gov. Lester Maddox of Georgia, Gov. John Bell Williams of Mississippi and Gov. Robert McNair. There, too, were Gov.-Elect George Wallace of Alabama, accompanied by his fiance, Mrs. Cornelia Ellis Snively.

A number of Rivers' colleagues from the U.S. House of Representatives were among the mourners, as well as Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., Sen. George Murphy, R-Calif., and Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo.

South Carolina's two U.S. senators were there also—Democrat Ernest Hollings and Republican Strom Thurmond.

The order for the burial of the dead was read to a throng that packed the Grace Episcopal Church.

There were no eulogies during the service.

Participating in the church services were the Rev. Carl McIntire, militant minister, the Rev. John A. Hamrick, president of the Baptist College of Charleston; and the Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, rector of Grace Episcopal.

An estimated 10,000 persons had filed past the casket in the church Tuesday, a day of cold rainy weather, and again Wednesday, a day when skies cleared, the sun shone, and the temperature was low.

More than 1,000 persons were present at the St. Stephen Episcopal Church Cemetery, surrounded by oak trees filled with hanging moss.

Mendel Rivers Jr., 23, described his father as a "great, wonderful man," during the graveside eulogy at the cemetery which dates back to the pre-Revolutionary War era.

"My father died, loved and mourned by millions of people," said Mendel Jr. in a smooth tone. "He died surrounded by his family. No man can ask for more."

"In a very real sense L. Mendel Rivers was a man of the people," he said. "His strength, it can be fairly said, did come from you, his people, who made him everything he was."

"I hope you'll never forget, because he never forgot."

[From the News & Courier (Charleston, S.C.), Dec. 31, 1970]

Sidewalks Jammed in Area of Church

(By Jack Roach)

Hundreds of persons, black and white, jammed the sidewalks in front of and near Grace Episcopal Church on Wentworth Street Wednesday for the funeral services of U.S. Rep. L. Mendel Rivers.

The 65-year-old congressman died early Monday, 17 days after he underwent open heart surgery at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham.

The sidewalk viewers stretched from Coming Street to St. Philip Street on both sides of Wentworth Street. Despite the cold, they were joined by numbers of others who had higher vantage points from second story porches and the roofs of buildings in the neighborhood.

The crowd began arriving hours before the funeral service started at 1 p.m. As the hour drew near the crowd increased and City Police Chief John Conroy estimated it at more than 500 persons.

A number of those on the sidewalk said they felt they would not be able to get into the church for the services so decided to take their positions outside—with the advantage of seeing the hundreds of dignitaries who arrived for the services.

The crowd was quiet and orderly as city and county police and state highway patrolmen went about their business of maintaining a flow of traffic and coordinating the arrival of the local and state officials and those from Washington, D.C.

A host of out-of-town newsmen, radio, television and newspaper, were on hand. At about 12:30 p.m. when the first of the dignitaries began arriving cameras began clicking and not just the news cameras. Many of the spectators were equipped with their own cameras. Many, of course, did not recognize the dignitaries they were hoping to see but clicked their cameras away anyway.

Heading the Washington contingent was Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird who represented President Nixon at the funeral. The Washington group arrived from the Charleston Air Force Base in four buses. Their arrival brought a surge from the sidewalk crowd to the street in front of the buses for a better look.

The group on the buses included members of the House Armed Services Committee, which Rivers served as chairman, and other U.S. congressmen and senators.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff were present along with Adm. Chester R. Bender, commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, thus giving representation of all five military services by the heads of those services at the funeral.

Members of the S.C. Congressional delegation including both senators: leading state officials including Gov. Robert E. McNair and Gov.-elect John C. West; members of the S.C. House and Senate and leading city and county officials all were in the group attending the funeral.

Gov. John Bell Williams of Mississippi, Gov. Lester Maddox of Georgia and Gov.-elect George C. Wallace of Alabama also attended.

Shortly before 1 p.m. Mrs. Rivers and members of the family and friends arrived and were escorted to the parish hall adjacent to the church. The crowd became unusually silent as the family reappeared within a few minutes and walked the short distance from the hall to the church entrance.

The family entered the church at 1:02 p.m. as the strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers" drifted through the open doors. Several of the sidewalk spectators began first to hum the hymn then quietly sang it in low voices until the doors were closed.

A stir went through the crowd as Gov. Maddox arrived late at 1:10 p.m. and was escorted into the church.

The crowd became silent again shortly thereafter as an eight-man ceremonial guard slowly marched down the middle of the street and took its position in front of the church door. The guard was composed of two sailors, two Marines, two soldiers, one Coast Guardsman and one airman. All are stationed with military units in Washington.

At 1:30 p.m. the service was over, the doors opened and the guard slowly entered to lift the casket and carry it across the sidewalk to the hearse.

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 31, 1970]

THEY CAME IN HARD HATS, DUNGAREES

(By Wendy R. Tucker)

In work clothes and hard hats, dungarees and dress uniforms, scarves and coats buttoned against the cold, they gathered Wednesday morning for a special memorial service for their friend L. MENDEL RIVERS.

Men and women of the Charleston Naval Shipyard and Naval Supply Center, civilians and military, gathered at the steps of the old yellow brick power house with its giant stack, one of the original shipyard buildings, for the service.

Solemn music sounded through the shipyard area as about 4,000 men and women stream onto Hobson Avenue, forming a giant semicircle about the platform from which the memorial service for Congressman RIVERS, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, was conducted.

They heard Rear Adm. Charles N. Payne, shipyard commander, say: "We are here to pay a small tribute to this great man."

Sharing the platform with Payne and Rear Adm. Joseph L. Howard, supply center commander, were nine presidents and officers of employe organizations.

Payne told the gathering: "Chairman L. MENDEL RIVERS' life certainly contained strong elements of precept and example. His devotion to his be-

lief— his belief in you, his supporters, in the American principle, and in God were unsurpassed."

Saying "this devotion he implemented with an unsurpassed singleness of purpose and a strength of conviction," Payne continued, "he did not wait for others to act.

"When he perceived a problem related to the welfare of his district, the defense capability of the nation, or the welfare of the serviceman, he took action to get it solved.

"If we can learn this lesson from his life, as it applies to our individual responsibilities at work and in our community, this will be his most valuable legacy."

Capt. James E. Reaves, the Sixth Naval District chaplain, spoke of Rep. Rivers as a man who "devoted himself throughout his life to the service of his fellow man."

In his eulogy, he characterized Rivers as "a patriot, an unashamed patriot," and a "politician in the finest sense," who "had a firm belief in his fellow Americans and Almighty God."

Chaplain Reaves also referred to information that Rivers might have lived longer had he entered the hospital earlier, but how the "press of duty was so upon him that he said he must continue to work."

Lt. Cmdr. H. T. Lewis, the Naval Station chaplain, delivered the invocation and benediction at the services, and led everyone in the "Lord's Prayer."

Then, in the shipyard setting with Navy vessels looming in the background, the vast gathering fell silent as Cpl. Gerald R. Boyce sent forth the mournful sound of "Taps."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 30, 1970]

Top Leaders Here for Rivers' Rites

(By Barbara S. Williams)

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers will be buried today in the rural Lowcountry county where he was born, after 1 p.m. funeral services that will be attended by the nation's top military and governmental leaders as well as his own "people."

The 65-year-old chairman of the House Armed Services Committee often referred to his First District constituency as "my people," and thousands of his hometown folks paid him final tribute Tuesday.

A chilling rain began falling shortly after Rivers' casket was placed in the nave of Grace Episcopal Church. The crowd waited outside until after the early-morning private service for the Rivers family.

The 1 p.m. service today at the 122-year-old Grace Episcopal Church will be broadcast simultaneously into the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul at Coming and Vanderhorst Streets and the Summerall Chapel on The Citadel campus.

Grace Church has a seating capacity of some 650 persons. An additional 200 seats also have been set up in the church's parish hall at Glebe and Wentworth Streets.

A memorial service also will be conducted at the same time at Washington's National Cathedral which President Richard M. Nixon is expected to attend.

Rivers will be buried near the graves of his parents in the St. Stephen Episcopal Churchyard. Born in the Small Berkeley County community of Gumville in 1905, River's family moved shortly afterward to a farm near St. Stephen.

Rivers actually spent most of his childhood in North Charleston where his family moved after his father died.

The congressman's childhood and early political friends were among the steady stream of mourners who filed by the open casket.

The crowd included men in work clothes, bearded youths and elderly persons who had to be assisted into the church. There were as many of the congressman's black as white constituents at the church until after midnight.

The church remained open all night and a military honor guard took its place at Rivers' casket shortly after 9 p.m.

The coffin was closed and draped with an American flag when the four-man honor guard began their vigil.

An estimated 5,000 persons had signed the church register late last night. The lines grew longer as the hour grew later. Many sat quietly in the church pews which appeared almost full at several points during the evening.

The nation's top military leaders are scheduled to be among an official party estimated at 200 that will arrive here today.

President Richard M. Nixon has designated Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird as his official representative.

Included in the official party will be Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, USN, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., Navy; Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army, Gen. John D. Ryan, Air Force, and Gen. Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., Marine Corps. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also is expected.

Alabama Gov-elect George C. Wallace also plans to attend the service, as does Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox and Mississippi Gov. John Bell Williams. Accompanying Williams will be State Adjutant, Gen. Walter Giles Johnson and former Mississippi Rep. Arthur Winstead, a long-time friend of Rivers.

Wallace will be accompanied by several staff members from the University of Alabama Hospital where Rivers underwent open heart surgery on Dec. 11.

The white-maned congressman appeared to be making a remarkable recovery until his heart stopped beating 10 days after the operation. The beating action was restarted by a fast-acting physician and Rivers appeared several days later to be back on the road to recovery.

However, his condition again deteriorated late last week. Rivers died early Monday morning as a result of "continuing heart failure."

The tributes to the veteran chairman of the House Armed Services Committee have flowed in from throughout the country.

Tuesday, the congressman's staff added its sentiments. The staff statement said:

"We have seen the passing of a giant and the end of an era.

"Although some did not agree with his views, few doubted the sincerity and conviction with which he held to these views. Hypocrisy was not his stock in trade. He loved his country, and we here in his office loved him.

"His passing leaves a sore and empty spot in our hearts. We shall not forget him ever."

The Rivers family received friends at their West Ashley home Tuesday after the private service at the church.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Margaret Middleton Rivers; two daughters, Mrs. Robert Eastman of Wilmington, Del., Miss Lois Marion Rivers of Los Angeles, Calif.; a son,, Lucius Mendel Rivers, Jr., of Charleston; two sisters, Mrs. Blanche Odom of Charleston and Mrs. Madge Danley of Bradenton, Fla.

The family has established the L. Mendel Rivers Memorial Fund for heart surgery research at the University of Alabama. A family statement said the fund is for "those friends who may want to remember him in a special way."

Contributions to the fund may be sent in lieu of funeral remembrances to the Department of Surgery, University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, Ala., 35233.

Contributions also may be made to the L. Mendel Rivers Library at the Baptist College at Charleston.

The Rev. John A. Hamrick, president of the Baptist College, will be among those assisting the Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, who will officiate at the Rivers funeral today. Others in the processional march will be the Rev. Michael Jones, assistant reactor, and the Rev. Carl McIntire of Collingswood, N.J.

Members of Rivers' Armed Services Committee are among those scheduled to arrive in Charleston about noon today. South Carolina's entire congressional delegation also is scheduled to attend the services.

All state, city and county offices will be closed from noon until 2 p.m. for the funeral. Charleston Mayor J. Palmer Gaillard also has requested that all businesses and offices in the city close during the two-hour period.

An official of Winn-Dixie stores confirmed last night the markets would be closed from noon until 2 p.m.

Many of the thousands who came to Grace Chuch Tuesday had their own personal story to tell about Rivers, who had become a legend within his own district.

Among those at the church was former state senator and now master in equity O. T. Wallace. The veteran politican recalled that he and Rivers stood their bar examinations together before the Congressman first was elected to the state legislature at the tender age of 28.

Wallace has the distinction of being the only elected official who supported Rivers in his first race for Congress in 1940 when he was the decided underdog. Wallace vividly recalled waiting for the returns that election night

and contended that the two most surprised men were RIVERS and his opponent.

RIVERS used to say later that he always knew he was going to Congress, it was just a question of when to run.

RIVERS went on to become an international figure and the champion of the military. Despite his years in Washington and his power on the national level. RIVERS never forgot his First District constituency or lost that personal touch that made him a winner.

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 31, 1970]

TOP LEADERS ATTEND RITES

(By Barbara Williams)

Thousands paid Rep. L. MENDEL RIVERS the tribute of a fallen hero Wednesday before he was buried beside the graves of his parents in a country churchyard after services attended by the nation's top military leaders.

His son, L. Mendel Rivers Jr., a 23-year-old, second year law student at Georgetown University, delivered the brief, graveside eulogy.

"My father died loved and mourned by millions of people and surrounded by his family. No man could ask for more," he said.

The 40-mile route to the St. Stephen's Episcopal Churchyard was lined with thousands of the veteran congressman's constituents.

A portion of that route involved the busy Interstate Highway 1–26 and motorists simply pulled off along the side of the road to wait for the two-mile funeral procession. Others stood quietly along highway overpasses to pay their last respects.

As the procession moved off the interstate route and into the more rural Berkeley County where the congressman was born the crowds grew even thicker with some shopping centers filled with silent spectators.

Hundreds earlier had stood in the streets in Charleston outside Grace Episcopal Church where the funeral services were conducted. A delegation of more than 200 officials from Washington, headed by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, attended that 30-minute service.

More than 5,000 persons earlier had filed by RIVERS' American flag-draped casket as he lay in repose for more than 24 hours in Grace Church prior to the 1 p.m. funeral.

Some 6,000 persons were waiting in the moss-draped St. Stephen's Episcopal Churchyard when the funeral procession arrived.

The military that the veteran chairman of the House Armed Services Committee loved played its role with precision.

Taps rang out as the crowd stood quietly in the cold, bright sunlight. An eight-man honor guard folded the flag on RIVERS' coffin which was presented to his widow by Laird.

As a prelude to the most dramatic moment, a formation of 12 F–4 Phantom jets flew over the little cemetery.

Then, the world's largest transport airplane, the giant C–5A, which RIVERS championed and brought to Charleston, flew its visual tribute.

"L. MENDEL RIVERS has come home to rest," his son told the graveside mourners.

"In a very real sense," he said, "L. MENDEL RIVERS was a man of the people. His strength, it can very fairly be said, did come from you. It was his people who made him everything he was. I hope you never forget it. He never did," young Rivers said.

RIVERS, who was considered among the most powerful men in the nation, already had become a legend in his First District.

The decided underdog in his first congressional race in 1940, he never came close to losing again during his 30 years in Congress.

His son spoke of three qualities he felt best characterized his father.

First, he said, there was his dynamism—his ceaseless energy that "drew people toward him like a magnet—large and small."

Second, he said, was love that once attained always stayed there. "He had a great and wonderful heart, filled with beauty and love for people."

RIVERS' son then spoke of his father's courage. "He chose everything carefully—his ideas and values. Once chosen, he never waivered, deviated or detoured. He simply didn't know how."

The outpouring of dignitaries and just plain citizens Wednesday was the largest ever accorded a South Carolina political leader.

RIVERS' illness came as a surprise to all but his closest friends and became public knowledge only after he checked into the University of Alabama Hospital earlier this month. The congressman delayed going to Birmingham, to work on several bills for the military in which he was particularly interested.

The 65-year-old congressman underwent open heart surgery on Dec. 11 and appeared to be making a remarkable recovery. However, he suffered a set back a week later and died 17 days after the operation of "continuing heart failure."

The family has established a memorial fund for the congressman for heart research at the hospital.

One of the first dignitaries to arrive at Grace church Wednesday was former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee Carl Vinson of Georgia. Vinson left the powerful chairmanship to RIVERS when he retired in the 1960s after 50 years in Congress. Both RIVERS and former President Lyndon B. Johnson were graduates of what became known in Congress as Vinson University.

The service opened with the choir and congregation singing "Onward Christian Soldiers." The Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft officiated, assisted by the Rev. Carl McIntire of Collingswood, N.J., who read the lesson, the Rev. John A. Hamrick, president of the Baptist College, and assistant rector, the Rev. R. Michael Jones.

The service was concluded with the "Halleluiah" or "Victory Song," ". . . the strife is over, the battle done, the victory of life is won . . ."

After the graveside service, Mrs. Rivers also received friends in the historic St. Stephen church.

Among the thousands to pay tribute to RIVERS after his death in Birmingham Monday were black and white, young and old and the influential. But, most, were, as one man at the graveside put it: "I'm just Joe Doe."

Most had felt the personal touch for which he was famous during his 30 years in Congress.

One elderly woman who stopped young Rivers said "I knew your daddy. He was good to the poor people in McClellanville. He wrote me the prettiest letter," when one of her relatives died.

RIVERS loved words especially when they rhymed and often interspersed his speeches with great swatches of poetry.

Mr. Meadowcroft quoted "Crossing the Bar," during the funeral service . . . "for tho' from out our bourne of time and place the flood may bear me far, I hope to see my pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar."

His son ended his eulogy with a poem he said his father loved dearly by John G. Neihardt:

"Let me live out my years in the heat of blood!
Let me die drunken with the dreamer's wine!
Let me not see this soul house built of mud
Go toppling to the dust—
A vacant shrine.
"Let me go quickly
Like a candle light
Snuffed out just at the heyday of its glow
Give me high noon—
And let it then be night
Thus would I go
"And grant that when I face the grisly Thing
My song may trumpet down the gray perhaps.
Let me be as a time-swept fiddle string
That feels the Master Melody—and snaps."

[From the Columbia (S.C.) State, Dec. 29, 1970]

NATIONAL LEADERS MOURN

President Richard Nixon led national leaders Monday in mourning the death of U.S. Rep. L. MENDEL RIVERS, D-S.C., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and staunch defender of a strong military complex.

"South Carolina," said the President, "has lost one of the most distinguished men in her history and America has lost a patriot."

"In his death," Nixon went on, "I have lost a friend upon whom I could rely in times of great difficulty."

For 30 years, the President said, "MENDEL RIVERS served the State of South Carolina and the nation with dignity, with distinction and with high integrity in the Congress of the United States."

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird said the nation has suffered the loss of a "great patriot" and American servicemen have lost "a devoted friend."

"I had developed," Laird went on, "the utmost respect and admiration for him as a colleague during his years in Congress and his wisdom and experience have continued to be a source of strength to me during my tenure as secretary of defense."

As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, RIVERS gave the Nixon administration staunch support in its handling of the war in Vietnam.

KNOWLEDGE

Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said RIVERS had "a fine knowledge of our military forces and military needs. He gave his district and the nation every ounce of his strength and fine talents."

Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., hospitalized with a respiration infection, dictated a statement praising RIVERS' "far-reaching understanding of the operations of the Defense Department."

DEDICATED

"No man ever lived," Russell added, "who was so wholeheartedly dedicated to the defense of this nation than MENDEL RIVERS. Those of us who are convinced that a strong defense is our main hope for continued freedom and peace have lost a champion."

Rep. F. Edward Hébert, D-La., next in line to succeed RIVERS as head of the House Armed Services Committee, praised RIVERS as "a fierce advocate in what he believed."

UNLIMITED

"His dedication," Hébert went on, "to the security and defense of the country was unlimited. His courage and determination coupled with his tenacity and forthrightness were the keystone to the many fights he fought for the country he loved."

The Louisiana congressman said "few men of RIVERS' stature pass our way, but having passed our way leave indestructible signs along the way to remind us that there can be no compromise with principle and no faltering in the fight to keep this nation free and strong."

TOGETHER

Hébert was with RIVERS at one of the South Carolina Congressman's last public appearances outside Congress. They were together at ceremonies dedi-

cating the Mendel Rivers Library at the Baptist College in Charleston in late October.

Rivers and Hébert were sworn in as Congressmen on the same day in 1941. A close friendship had existed since then.

ELOQUENT

Evangelist Billy Graham, who was also present at the library ceremonies in Charleston, said Rivers was one of "the most eloquent defenders of American freedom."

"I look forward to seeing him in heaven," Graham said.

The North Carolina evangelist called Rivers "my closest friend in Congress."

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 30, 1970]

St. Stephen Readies Final Resting Place for Rivers

(By Michael A. Little)

St. Stephen.—While mourners from Charleston, South Carolina and the nation were waiting in the rain to pay their respects to Rep. L. Mendel Rivers in Charleston Tuesday, preparations for his final resting place were being made in nearby St. Stephen.

Approximately 25 workmen and heavy equipment from the surrounding area here including workers from the Concentrated Employment Program, Highway Dept., Cainhoy and other Berkeley County communities, gathered in a "community effort" to make the burial site for their "champion" more attractive to the many visitors expected here Wednesday.

"We realize history is being and will be made here Wednesday and we are trying to make everything as perfect as we possibly can," St. Stephen Mayor J. Conway Belangia said.

As mayor for the town of 1,800 Belangia expressed the feeling of the town's people, saying, "Used to, if we ever needed any help for anything, we could call our friend in Washington, but we can't do that anymore."

"This was his eyeball and he used to really take care of us. Mendel Rivers made many jobs available for the St. Stephen people and especially helped them when he brought the Douglas aircraft plant to St. Stephen," Mayor Belangia said.

"This is really a community project," the mayor continued.

"Everyone will close their places of business at noon. About the only businesses that will remain open will be restaurants to accommodate all of the out-of-town visitors that will be here," Belangia said.

Many of Congressman Rivers' friends unable to attend the funeral in Charleston are expected to crowd into St. Stephen for the burial.

Mayor Belangia said the cortege will arrive in St. Stephen from Charleston on Highway 52 and turn east on Highway 45 in St. Stephen for the three-block trip to the St. Stephen Episcopal Church.

"This community is really hurt. We all loved Congressman Rivers," the mayor said.

"People may not have heard of St. Stephen before, but we know it will always be remembered now," he said.

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Dec. 31, 1970]

Thousands Pay Final Respects

(By Michael A. Little)

St. Stephen.—His friends came early and they stayed late.

The main street business section of St. Stephen closed promptly at noon as flags were flown from each building in honor of Rep. L. Mendel Rivers.

One shopkeeper was observed putting his flag up when a passerby shouted, "I have to go home and put my flag up too."

Approximately 6,000 persons jammed into the churchyard at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church to pay their final respects to their friend.

"Who will look after us now?" echoed through the cemetery from the mourners gathered from across the state, nation and his hometown.

One of the most fitting of the final tributes paid to the congressman of 30 years was a "Memorial Flyover," three flights of 12 Air Force jets, F4Es, from Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C., 4th Tactical Fighter Wing, led by Lt. Col. James Fox. Mission commander for the south to north flyby was Brig. Gen. Cleo M. Bishop, asst. deputy chief of staff for operations at Langley AFB, Va.

"No man was too small for him to talk to. He would talk to the big and the small," said Edgar M. Dodd, USN retired.

"Nothing was too small for him to tackle," Mrs. H. A. Murray of North Charleston said.

Servicemen from many parts of the surrounding area made the trip to St. Stephen to pay tribute to their "serviceman."

"The servicemen are really going to miss him," Sgt. C. Louie McRae said Wednesday morning after driving from Ft. Bragg, N.C.

Richard Bogenrief of Ft. Myer, Va., sounded taps for the ceremony.

[From the (Charleston, S.C.) News & Courier, Jan. 2, 1971]

Rivers Admirers Visit Cemetery at St. Stephen

St. Stephens.—People from many areas of South Carolina and adjoining states journied to this rural community New Year's Day to view the grave site of Rep. L. Mendel Rivers.

St. Stephen Mayor J. Conway Belangia said 25 to 50 cars had crowded the narrow cemetery road all New Year's Day. He said many people took pictures of the flowers and of the grave.

Mayor Belangia said he had seen cars from Florida and Georgia as well as surrounding areas of South Carolina.

ADDRESS BY HON. STROM THURMOND

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. President, the late Representative L. MENDEL RIVERS had a great many friends in many walks of life. Among these were the 100,000 members of the American Dental Association. He earned the dentists' vigorous and dedicated support by his continuing efforts to obtain better dental health programs for members of the armed services and their dependents, and to improve the status of military dental personnel.

Many tributes have been paid to the Honorable MENDEL RIVERS. The Congressional Record of January 26 contained several of them. However, none expressed the sentiments of dentistry, military dentistry in particular, as does the statement in the Journal of the American Dental Association for February 1971.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this tribute be printed in the Extension of Remarks.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE L. MENDEL RIVERS

For five days short of 30 years, L. MENDEL RIVERS was the member of the House of Representatives from the 1st District of South Carolina. His death at the age of 65, soon after heart surgery, not only robs the Congress of one of the most powerful and colorful members ever to walk its halls but also stills the voice of as vigorous a Congressional champion as dentistry—military dentistry in particular—has ever had.

SOUTHERN DEMOCRAT

MENDEL RIVERS was a Southern Democrat in the classic tradition. He looked the part with patrician features, a ramrod posture and a long, smooth mane of snowy hair. He sounded the part with a voice of grained velvet that he rarely needed to raise, employing it instead in a way that could drip sar-

casm or bestow blessings as the occasion demanded. He acted the part by displaying that mastery of the legislative process that is an essential component of the Southern Democrat heritage.

DENTAL INTERESTS

His deep interest in dental matters was a constant characteristic throughout his Congressional career. It was barely two years after entering the House, when, early in World War II, he helped achieve legislation making it mandatory that dentists be taken into the armed forces at the officer level and assigned duties appropriate to their professional training. Further improvements in the basic laws that have come subsequently have all received his unequivocal backing.

MILITARY DENTAL CORPS

It was, as well, his legislative leadership that led to reorganization of the Navy and Army dental corps, guaranteeing two-star rank for each chief dental officer and giving the Navy corps a statutory autonomy. He never gave up on efforts to achieve totally parallel status for the Army and Air Force dental corps and anyone familiar with the history of the corps knows how often and helpfully he also intervened on their behalf in less formal ways.

HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE

There was in MENDEL RIVERS as well another aspect of the Southern Democrat heritage, a Populist strain that can also be found in the careers of such other great members of Congress from the South as Lister Hill of Alabama. He had a lively concern for the health and welfare of the people, coupled with a conviction that the federal government had an appropriate role to play in improving it. His general voting record marks him as a staunch supporter of the efforts on behalf of dental care, research, and education led by such men as Lister Hill and the late John E. Fogarty.

DEPENDENTS' DENTAL CARE

Within his specific sphere of interest, he worked doggedly to persuade successive Secretaries of Defense to bring dental care benefits to military dependents. That battle is, as yet, unfinished, but its eventual establishment would be a particularly appropriate memorial to the extraordinary man who so warmly befriended dentistry for so many years.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Mr. RIVERS' all but certain successor as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee is, like him, a Southern Democrat. F. Edward Hébert began his House service the same day as MENDEL RIVERS—Jan. 3, 1941—and has ever since represented the 1st District of Louisiana. Born in New Orleans on Oct. 12, 1901, the veteran House member is a graduate of Tulane University and reflects the history of his native state by preferring the French

pronunciation of his name (sounds like "A-Bear"). He came to Congress after nearly a quarter-century career in journalism, during which he gained substantial renown for his investigative reporting. Long an influential member of the Armed Services Committee and chairman of many of its most important subcommittees, Rep. Hébert is expected to bring to his post much the same general philosophy as was held by his late predecessor.

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